

# NEWSLETTER

PSA APR / MAY 2023

## HEADTEACHER MESSAGE

Dear Parents

As we near the end of our first academic year at PSA, I wanted to take this opportunity to thank all stakeholders for their support to our school community. Your involvement, and partnership have been instrumental in making the first year at PSA a success.

Our recent community events, in particular Vaisakhi in Trafalgar Square and International Women's Day, have been a resounding success, bringing community members together to celebrate the birth of Khalsa as well as the achievements and contributions of women around the world.

Finally, best wishes to our Year 11 and 13 students who have embarked on their final examinations. We hope that their perseverance, resilience, preparation and hard work over the past few months will put them on a pathway to success.

Wishing you are relaxing half term break.

Mr Sahota

## KEY DATES

Mon 29 May

- Summer Half Term Begins

Mon 5 June

- Summer Term 2 Begins

Mon 12 June

- End of Year Exams begin for Year 7 - 10

Mon 26 June

- Year 10 Study Skills Day

Tue 27 June

- Rashpal Shergill

Fri 30 June

- Inset (school closed)

1-3 July

- DofE Silver Trip

3-7 July

- Y10 Work Experience

Tue 4 July

- Super Learning Day

Wed 5 July

- Y6 Transition Day

Thur 6 July

- Prom

Fri 7 July

- Sports Day



# OUR SCHOOL

## GOOD LUCK YEAR 13!



Congratulations to all of you on making it through an incredibly tough two years.

As you were unable to sit GCSEs in 2021, this summer's exams will be the first external assessments you take. We wish you all the luck in the world with these. Ensure you are prepared, well rested and excited for the concluding moments of your PSA journey. The resilience you have shown under such conditions is remarkable and will serve you well in later life. You are all exceptional, inspiring, and talented young people and we couldn't be prouder of you. Best wishes and good luck in your exciting next steps.

Mr Kilbane

## WELCOME MRS RANDHAWA ASSISTANT HEADTEACHER (POST 16)



I have been working in education for the last 15 years and love the thrill and excitement working with young people brings. I graduated from the University of Westminster with a joint honours degree in Information Technology and Business Management. I spent two years in the IT industry and began my teaching career as an ICT and Business Studies teacher in 2008 through the PGCE programme.

I have been fortunate to work in both the public and private sectors of education and understand the opportunities that a good education can give a young person. In my previous positions, I have been responsible for operations and strategic aspects of school life as the Head of Senior School. During my career I have also been privileged enough to be Head of Sixth Form and Teaching and Learning coordinator of a very successful Sixth Form, with excellent attainment outcomes., I also have vast experience in raising attainment levels across Key Stage 3, 4 and 5.

I am a keen enthusiast in education pedagogy, post 18 opportunities and the impact of 21st Century skills in education. I believe it is essential to equip young people with the tangible skills they need to flourish in the next stages of their life, whether it is further education or the world of work. I am looking forward to embedding these skills in my teaching, to inspiring the next generation and be part of the team at PSA.

# SCHOOL EVENTS

## INTERNATIONAL WOMENS DAY

This year we kicked off International Women's Day with an amazing event for our Y10 Girls. It consisted of female students from varying backgrounds, from three other schools (Eden Girls school, Baylis Court and Nishkam school).

The main aim of the event was to encourage female students to take leadership and control of their lives. Understand when to speak up and why their voice is so important.

We had a range of guest speakers including, Sarah Whitehead (Head of International News Sky), Author Sangeeta Fairweather, Seema Flower (founder of Blind Ambition) and Mental Health Practitioner Priyia Ravi!



*'The International Women's Day Conference was a powerful day. I really enjoyed listening and talking to other girls from different schools as well as guest speakers who share the same passion as I. As a presenter, I loved being able to share my view on problems that women are facing in today's society. As well as that, the girls from the other school have exchanged numbers with some of us and it's safe to say that we have made friends that will last a lifetime.'*

*'Also Ms Sharif, thank you so much for organizing this day with Ms Kaur. Myself and the other girls had such a great time. All in all the day was so much fun with inspiring guest speakers. Once again, thank you so much.'*

*Simrah, Y10*

Some of our students also presented on the day and shared their views on Women in Stem, Beauty Stereotypes and Gender Inequalities! The girls were extremely well spoken and executed their presentations professionally. They received compliments from both the speakers and participating schools. Our girls even received an invite to future events and were asked to present their Sikh beliefs and traditions in other faith schools.

We are hoping to hold future events of such and build our network to provide all our students with the best education possible.





## VAISAKHI TRAFALGAR SQUARE

Saturday 22 April 2023, was a huge moment for Pioneer Secondary Academy. We were provided with the opportunity to hold a stall and have some of our students present on the big stage, where over 20,000 people attended. Our main goal for the event was to let the community know who we are and our mission to develop the future leaders of tomorrow, through our values, regardless of faith or background!

Ajay, Manraj, Kushi, Harry, Amrit and Simrah did an amazing job at showcasing this. They were phenomenal on stage and carried themselves with so much confidence and pride. They were a perfect example of our students at Pioneer and definitely sent a clear message to the public through their words. We received many compliments from presenters, staff and members of the community regarding how amazing the students performances were. We could not have been more proud of them.

We aimed to introduce ourselves and engage with the public as much as possible, forming some fantastic relationships and receiving many donations! Finally, thank you to the PSA community who attended to support us on the day it was lovely seeing some familiar faces.





## CCF EX DOFE SILVER PRACTICE EXPEDITION

On the weekend of 4-5 March 9 new cadet entrants to the CCF DofE Silver Award attended a training camp in the Chilterns with 2 CFAVs (Capt. Hague and Lt Woodcock) and Mr John Williams from "Zest for Adventure". After a long day morale was boosted as all gathered around a large fire in the forest built by the fire master. It was a magical time as a Punjabi song was sung about the heroic battle of Saragarhi where 20 Sikh soldiers fought to the death against 10 000 Afghan tribesmen. This was ably translated by Cdt Jasleen Johar. The following day was spent on an accompanied walk in the Chilterns where navigational skills were taught and demonstrated.

From Sat-Mon 11-13 March these 9 cadets were joined by 7 bronze award holders at PSA where Capt Hague, C Sgt Barlow and Sgt Barrett transported the cadets in two vehicles (provided by the Army) to the Cotswolds near Cheltenham where we made our rendezvous with Lt Woodcock (CFAV) and John Williams and David Goss (Zest for Adventure). Here on the snow covered hilly terrain began a 3 day, 2 night arduous camping expedition where cadets, carrying full kit, marched in the cold, driving rain for 50km. This was a challenging expedition where only 80% of the company made it to the end (20% being returned to barracks for a variety of very valid reasons). The CCF adult volunteers spent 3 days tracking the cadets using our new tracking technology, assisting lost cadets only when necessary.



I have to say I was so impressed by the grit, resilience & determination of these 16 (Y10-11) cadets. It should be noted that Nationally only about 300 000 young people do the Bronze expedition per year compared to maybe 100 000 doing the Silver Expedition. This is a very small percentage of all young people. It is no surprise therefore that only 2000 youngsters per year (17-25 year olds) dare brave the Gold expedition and those that do and pass will receive their awards from the Duke himself at Buckingham Palace.

Impressed...why you may ask?

Because hiking with full kit for 3 days on challenging unfamiliar terrain, in adverse weather conditions and camping in wet muddy fields, is challenging for experienced hikers in the correct technical kit. These cadets have never done anything like this before and without the modern technical equipment.

Needless to say, I am extremely proud of them and of our volunteers who gave up their time to support them.

For me, although exhausted myself, I can say there is nothing more rewarding than seeing the bright smiles of satisfaction on the cadets' faces, having faced the elements and having overcome their fears & challenges. In their own words, they have learnt much about themselves, their comrades and have realised that the team is so much greater than the individual.

The real challenge will take place on their qualifying expedition in the bleak and harsh terrain of the Peak District (1-3 July 2023). For this challenge they will need to reflect on lessons learnt and spend the next 3 months preparing.

All hail the glorious Pioneers!





# SPORTS FIXTURES AND ENRICHMENT

## UPDATES

London Irish Rugby club have been teaching Year 11 and Year 9 for 5 weeks now and this has been very successful so far with many students wanting to take this further. 14 lucky Year 9 students were given the opportunity to play in a rugby festival at the training ground of London Irish on Wednesday 26th April. The Team were awarded a trophy for fair play, well done to all those involved.



PE enrichment activities have changed this term and we now offer the following activities on these days for girls and boys unless specified

- Tuesday - Basketball
- Wednesday - Tennis, Cricket (Year 7 & 8)
- Thursday - Basketball, Cricket (Year 9 & 10), Table tennis and Girl's football

Table tennis club on Thursdays will have a professional table tennis coach delivering the sessions from Thursday 4th May onwards. These sessions run between 2:30-3:30pm. All students are welcome to attend



Mr Walden has been selected to race for Great Britain in the World Triathlon Sprint Distance Championships 2023 in Hamburg later this year. A phenomenal achievement! We look forward to him flying the PSA flag for us and demonstrating our RAISE values on the global stage! Best of luck!





# ACHIEVEMENTS

## JAKE

Taekwondo superstar Jake, fought off some tough competition during his recent matches.

He managed to receive two gold medals!

We cannot wait to see what the future holds for Jake!



## ANUSHKA

Anushka is another Taekwondo superstar here at Pioneer. Due to her hard work and dedication, she managed to gain a gold and silver medal in her recent competition!

We cannot wait to hear more about Anushka's achievements!

IF YOU HAVE A GOOD NEWS STORY TO SHARE, PLEASE DO LET YOUR FORM TUTOR OR HEAD OF YEAR KNOW.

## PANAAV

We are thrilled to share the remarkable progress of one of our outstanding students, Panaav, in the field of basketball. Panaav's dedication and hard work have led to impressive achievements this year, and we couldn't be prouder of his accomplishments.

Panaav began his basketball journey by joining the Spelthorne Atoms in the Surrey Youth League. His exceptional skills and determination propelled his team to the playoffs, where he showcased his talent and sportsmanship.

Building on his success, Panaav seized a fantastic opportunity to trial for the Woking Blackhawks, a National team renowned for their excellence. His exceptional performance during the trials left the team impressed, and they extended an offer for him to join their ranks. This remarkable achievement places Panaav on an incredible platform to explore opportunities with academy teams across the south of England.

We wholeheartedly congratulate Panaav on his achievements thus far and wish him the best of luck for his future endeavors. His commitment to basketball serves as an inspiration to all aspiring athletes, reminding us that with dedication and passion, dreams can become a reality.

## SINGH SABHA BOXING FIGHT SHOW

PSA continues to produce Boxing superstars!!  
Congrtaulations to brothers Gurnam and Satnam Singh who participated in the Singh Sabha Boxing Fight show earlier this month,. Satnam pulled off an impressive display with a first round stoppage, following a fantastic victory in his first amatuer fight in Southampton the week before. It was fantastic to see so many of the PSA community come along to support the event at Singh Sabha Sports centre.



# DRAMA

## DRAMA NEWSLETTER

Friday 24th March 2023 - Year 11 Scripted Exam

On Friday 24th March our fantastic GCSE Drama group completed the second performance of their GCSE course. Showing off their skills by performing three extracts of the play 'Things I know to Be True' by Andrew Bovell!

I know everyone there was incredibly impressed by them and are looking forward to them winning awards in the future for their fantastic acting and sound design!

Here are some shots of their rehearsal earlier that day!





# DRAMA TRIPS

*A lot of Drama trips are going out next term and students are getting the fantastic chance to go into London to watch live theater!*

**17TH MAY 2023**

*'Year 8 had a fantastic time at Wicked! I am really proud of how they behaved!'*

*Mr Bullen*

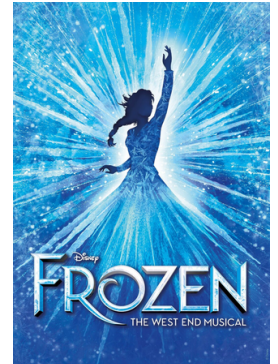
*Set before and during the 1939 film "The Wizard of OZ" Wicked tells the story of Elphaba and Glinda more commonly known as the Wicked Witch of the West and The Good Witch of the North. Their friendship and life from when they met at University to how their lives and relationship turned out. It is a story which shows us how knowing other people can change our lives For Good.*



**25TH MAY 2023**

*'A fantastic cultural experience with our brilliantly Year 7's. Mr Bullen*

*This story tells the tale of the two sisters Anna and Elsa one of whom has ice powers. A story about love, friendship and a talking snowman awaits our year 7's as they look at the way family can really hold you together and learn more about their acting skills. But can they let it go and watch the show?*



**7TH JUNE 2023**

*Year 10 will be traveling to 1880's Paris and meeting The Phantom of The Opera. In the Paris opera house, shows are put on, stars rise and icons get pushed to the side. The story of Miss Christine Daae, a ballet dancer who overnight becomes the star of the opera house thanks to a mysterious Angel of Music who is keen for her career to flourish amongst fierce opposition. The Phantom of the opera brings together some fantastic music and takes our students to the Masquerade.*



**29TH JUNE 2023**

*Year 9 Trip - show TBC*

*Do not think I have forgotten about Year 9! The Year 9 theatre trip will be announced shortly with opportunities to sign up coming soon! We may go read a book with some magic in, travel to the savanna, see a fight upon the barricade or go and see something completely different.*



# FUNDRAISING AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

## WEXHAM PARK HOSPITAL

We have had some fantastic opportunities to promote our "Seva" value over the past few weeks.

Before Easter, we visited Wexham Park Hospital and delivered over 100 Easter eggs for the children's ward. The staff and patients were overwhelmed by our generous donations. We look forward to working with Wexham Park Hospital for future events.

Furthermore, we raised over £1000 which has been split between Comic Relief and the Red Cross.

Thank you for your kind donations, particularly during these difficult financial times we are facing.



## PRIMARY SCHOOL VISIT

Recently we had Stoke Poges Primary school visit us for a Sikhi Workshop. The students were presented to by some of our Y7 and 8 students in the Gurdwara. To discuss the Story of Guru Nanak dev ji and what Vaisakhi is! This was also followed by some Kirtan by our Y7 students, which the children and Stoke Poges Primary thoroughly enjoyed!

Not only this but they also learnt to write their initials in punabi and were provided the opportunity to experiencing wearing a turban (which many did not want to take off)! It was an amazing experience, we hope to hold more events like this for other schools in the future.

*'I cannot express how much the children enjoyed it. There were smiles all round and they couldn't stop talking about what they had experienced.*

*Everything was just perfect - the informative session in the gurdwara the calligraphy, the turban tying and the delicious snacks and lunch. I really hope this is the first of many.*

*Thank you to you and all who helped you today.'*

*-Year 5 Teacher, Stoke Poges*

