

NEWSLETTER

PSA SUMMER 2023

HEADTEACHER MESSAGE

Dear Parents,

It gives me great pleasure to reflect on the achievements and memorable moments that have shaped our school community. Following the exams period, we have had a really exciting and busy summer.

Our recent talent show showcased our students in a different light with a full range of inspiring performances. A big thank you to all the participants, supporters, Mr Bullen and Mrs Yosoufian who made this event a resounding success.

Our inaugural rewards evening was a truly special occasion. We were honored to welcome Dr. Mandeep Rai, a well renowned global author and journalist for the BBC World Service and Reuters. Dr. Rai's insights were inspirational for us all and will leave a lasting impact on our students. A thoroughly enjoyable for all those who attended.

The Year 11 Prom was a remarkable event that marked a milestone in the lives of our students. It was an evening filled with joy, laughter, selfies and lots of dancing. Mrs Poulin and the Prom committee did a phenomenal job in organising this unforgettable event, raising over £1800 to create memories that will be cherished for years to come.

Throughout the year, we have had the privilege of hosting numerous special guests who have enriched our students' educational experiences. From industry professionals to esteemed academics, these individuals have shared their expertise and insights, providing invaluable guidance to our students.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank our stakeholders, parents, staff, and community partners, your support and collaboration have been instrumental in creating a nurturing and inspiring environment for our students.

As we approach the well-deserved summer break, I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a restful holiday. May you find time to relax, recharge, and create lasting memories with loved ones. I encourage our students to pursue their interests, explore new avenues of knowledge, and return to us in the next academic year with renewed enthusiasm.

Warmest regards

Mr Sahota

Part of the Sikh Academies Trust

A LEVEL AND GCSE RESULTS COLLECTION

A Level Results Day - Thu 17 August

The school will be open from 09.00 - 10.00 for the collection of examination results. Members of staff will be available to support with UCAS queries and careers advice.

AGCSE Results Day - Thu 24 August

The school will be open from 09.00 - 10.00 for the collection of examination results. Members of staff will be available to support with 6th form applications and careers advice.

Good luck!

SIXTH FORM TASTER DAY



We are thrilled to announce the resounding success of our recent Sixth Form Taster Day! Prospective students were warmly welcomed into the vibrant and enriching environment of our sixth form, giving them a firsthand experience of life as a sixth former.

The day commenced with a warm welcome breakfast, allowing students to catch up with friends and meet the staff. The atmosphere was electric, with students eager to immerse themselves in the sixth form experience. Mrs. Randhawa led an informative presentation, showcasing the diverse range of subjects and extracurricular activities available, as well as outlining the day's schedule.

Throughout the day, students participated in engaging workshops, interacted with passionate teachers, and gained valuable insights into the wide array of subjects and extracurricular activities they could pursue. For those who missed the taster day, worry not! Mrs. Randhawa is available to provide all the necessary information for embarking on your sixth form journey with us.

We eagerly look forward to welcoming these exceptional individuals into our sixth form community and supporting them on their journey towards a bright and successful future.

SCHOOL EVENTS

SCIENCE STEM SUMMER CAMP

We are delighted to share the exciting success of our Science STEM Summer Camp, generously sponsored by Goldman Sachs. This enriching program provided a unique opportunity for 20 Year 9 students to immerse themselves in the fascinating world of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics). Over the course of a week, our students delved into various STEM disciplines, engaging in hands-on experiments, interactive workshops, and collaborative projects. Moreover, they had the privilege of meeting STEM professionals who graciously shared their career journeys, inspiring our students with their expertise and real-world insights. The camp not only expanded our students' knowledge and skills in STEM but also fostered their passion and curiosity for these fields. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Goldman Sachs for their invaluable support in empowering our students to explore STEM and paving the way for future career opportunities. We look forward to building upon this success and continuing to provide exceptional STEM experiences for our students.



"The past week has made me even more determined to choose a career in STEM.
#girlsinstem"

"My only criticism would be that I wish we had more time and had the chance to have an
"engineering" focussed day."

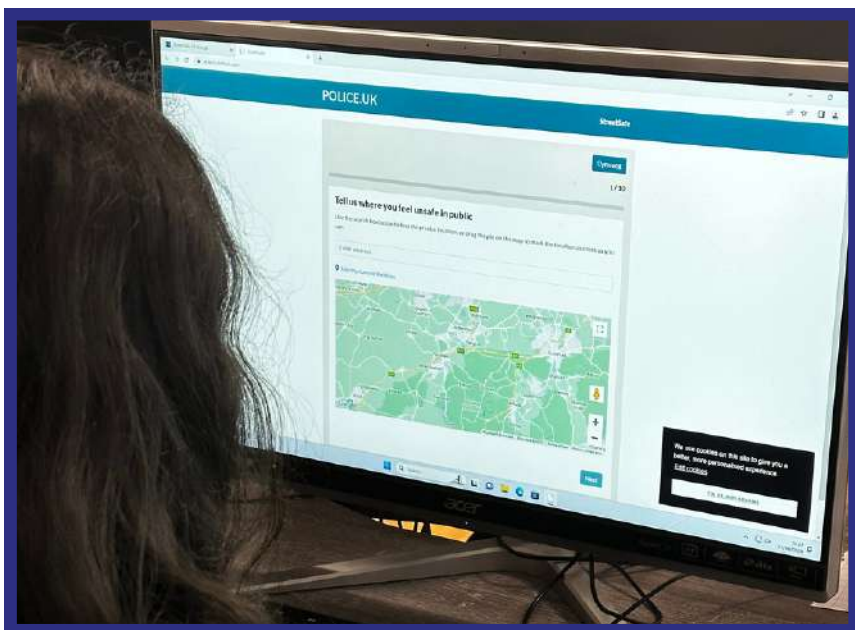
"This week has made me realise I want to take up a job in a STEM related career."

POLICE WORKSHOP



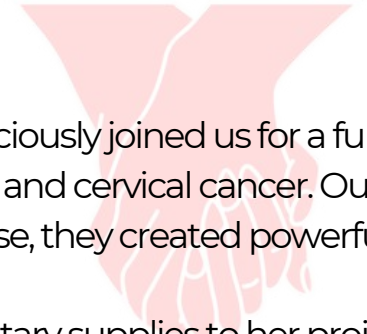
Four Met police officers, accompanied by the lead Faith Liaison Officer from the Partnership and Prevention Hub, visited our school to conduct VAWG (Violence Against Women and Girls) workshops. Our students actively participated in the workshops, attentively listening to the measures designed to protect young girls. During the sessions, our students collaboratively identified areas they perceived as less safe and in need of increased surveillance and security. Additionally, the specialist CSE officer (Child Sexual Exploitation) provided valuable insights into the risks and preventive techniques related to such situations. Emphasising the significance of online safety, the officer highlighted the importance of reporting any suspicious online activities immediately.

The workshops facilitated crucial discussions on safeguarding, ensuring that our students are better informed and equipped to stay safe in various environments, both offline and online.



JAGRITI

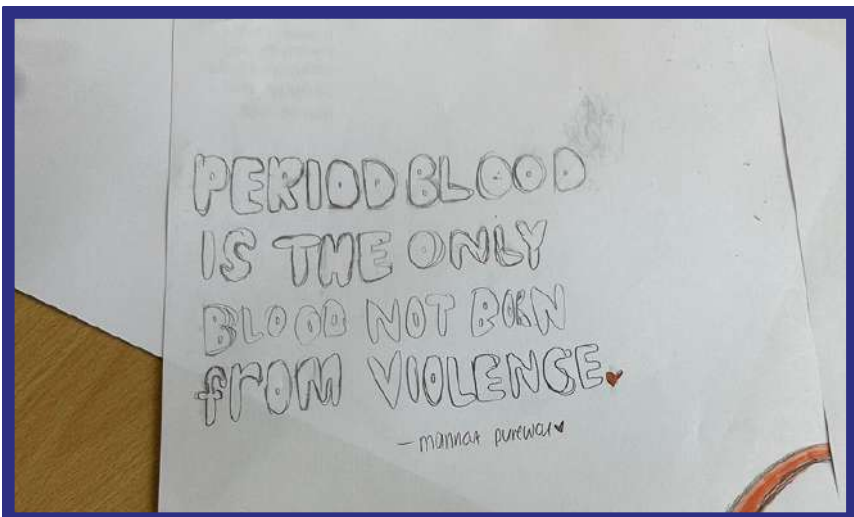
JAGRITI



Asavaari Kaur, the founder of the Jagriti programme in New Delhi, graciously joined us for a full day to educate our students on crucial topics such as the HPV vaccine and cervical cancer. Our students were deeply engaged and inspired by her insights. In response, they created powerful artwork and poetry to support her awareness programme.

Additionally, we are proud to announce our commitment to send sanitary supplies to her project during the autumn term. This contribution will aid in preventing more girls from leaving school and ensure they can continue their education with dignity and respect, while also maintaining their hygiene and safety.

Through this collaboration, we hope to make a positive impact on the lives of young girls, promoting better health and educational opportunities.



PSA FIRST EVER AWARDS EVENING



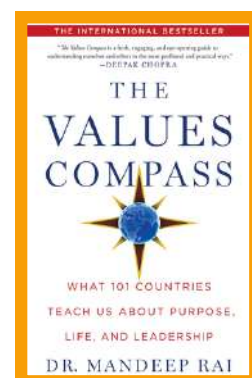
A night of celebration and achievement unfolded as our first annual School Awards Evening honored our exceptional students for their outstanding accomplishments. The event saw beaming parents, proud teachers, and elated students come together to applaud the remarkable talents and hard work displayed throughout the academic year.

The evening began with a beautiful Sukhasan in our Gurdwara as we welcomed parents from all around. Our guests were then treated to some light snacks and refreshments before taking their seats to watch the show!

Our Guest of Honour spoke with humility and inspiration. Dr Mandeep Rai began her career in private banking at JPMorgan, and later worked for the United Nations, the European Commission, and grassroots NGOs before setting up the UAE's first media venture capital fund. She is the author of *The Values Compass*, a fresh, engaging and eye-opening guide to understanding ourselves and others in the most profound and practical ways. She lit up the evening and we thank her for supporting Mr Sahota in awarding our students their accolades.

The audience were also treated to a brilliant performance from two of our students, Sukhmani and Jasleen who lifted the crowd with their immaculately rehearsed piece of theatrical movement.

Congratulations to all, we look forward to many more Awards Evenings at the school.



SKIPPING SIKH & HULA HOOP KAUR

BBC
NEWS

Today, our school had the honor of hosting Skipping Sikh and Hula Hoop Kaur, along with BBC News, to highlight the significance of fitness and wellbeing among young people. It was a joyous occasion as students enthusiastically engaged in friendly competitions with these inspiring celebrities from the community. The two guests shared invaluable pearls of wisdom, emphasising humility and the importance of standing up to serve others, which can only be achieved when we take care of our body and mind through regular exercise.

One remarkable individual who graced our event was Rajinder Singh ji, a 76-year-old who continues to volunteer his time at Osterley Park and passionately visits schools to discuss the connection between spirituality and physical activity. He encouraged our students to motivate their parents and grandparents to embrace an active and healthy lifestyle, ensuring their well-being so they can serve others selflessly during the summer holiday.

The visit from these inspirational figures left a lasting impression on our students, reinforcing the significance of fitness, wellbeing, and selfless service in creating a harmonious and caring community.



Y11 PROM

The Year Elevens had their final Key Stage Four hoorah on Thursday, 6th July, at the elegant Ditton Manor. Many of the 2023 cohort attended the event to celebrate their well-deserved achievements. The students arrived in style and were warmly greeted by applause from teachers and school staff. They were offered a welcome fizzy drink and enjoyed strolling through the beautifully maintained grounds surrounding the manor, capturing photos in their finery. Later, everyone moved inside to the manor's atrium, which was impeccably decorated in the school's colors. There were opportunities for more photo-booth style pictures before the elegant 3-course meal was served. The DJ took requests between courses, and as the night progressed, the dance floor was buzzing with energy.

At nine o'clock, a thrilling dhol performance by Jeevan, Sewak and Manveer amazed and entertained everyone, earning them countless thank-yous and compliments. The festive atmosphere continued, and the students danced joyfully into the night. PSA staff were filled with pride as they observed the students come together, inclusively celebrating and creating lasting memories.

As the event concluded, PSA staff bid their farewells outside the manor's doors, expressing their excitement to welcome many of the students back in September when they return for sixth-form.



GLA EVENT

PSA students were invited to the GLA cost of living crisis on 12 July at the Siri Guru Singh Sabha Gurdwara in Southall. Our students shared powerful poetry and prose to promote equality and highlight how the current crisis has affected young people directly in their personal lives

And the young people -articulate, passionate, principled and talented! Their presence made the session really special - young people have been missing from a lot of the conversations this week so very grateful for their presence and contributions.



SIKH EVENTS

Y9 FILM VISIT

Students in Year 9 watched a screening of the documentary called "Jaagdi Neend." The documentary highlighted the concepts of virtual reality and spirituality. It aimed to raise students' awareness about the role of technology in our lives and how to utilise it to our advantage, rather than allowing it to take control. The documentary was developed and directed in Australia and received a nomination at the Sikh Film Festival. Following the screening, the director and producer engaged in a Q&A session with our students, offering them tips in media and filmmaking.



SAHEJ PAATH

The PSA students completed our very first Sahej Paath (continuous reading of the Siri Guru Granth Sahib). Students and staff took the opportunity before and after school, during lunch and break times to participate. Together, we were able to conclude the Paath with the Bhog during the year 11's special spiritual leavers assembly. Our intention was to connect with the divine teachings and seek blessings for our first year as a new school. Furthermore, we engaged in daily prayer and meditation to provide strength, support, and courage to the students preparing for their final exams, enabling them to pursue their dreams.



PIONEER CCF EXPEDITION D OF E BRONZE AWARD

CCF Operation DofE Bronze Expedition – 17-18 June 2023

On Saturday 17th June 2023 Capt. R Hague and Lt M Woodcock (external Cadet Force Adult Volunteers of the Pioneer CCF Company), in collaboration with Donna Thompson (Expedition Director) from Zest for Adventure remotely supervised 6 Pioneer cadets on their CCF DofE Bronze Qualifying Expedition in the Chiltern Hills. The team started their march in full kit at 1100 hrs. in Ashton Clinton and arrived at Camp near the Ivinghoe Beacon at 2100 hrs.



On the morning of Sunday 18th June, the team, after washing and cooking breakfast in the field, took down the camp and began the arduous 2nd day of the hike scaling the Ivinghoe Beacon as the morning became increasingly hot.



Donna Thompson manned the checkpoints along the route whilst the two CFAVs were tracking the team in the hills all day long.



The cadets despite their pain, the heat and exhaustion pushed themselves through the Ashridge Estate to the end at the Berkhamsted War Memorial.

The two days involved the cadets covering over 30 km and the CFAVs 40km tracking them constantly.

I am very proud of the Pioneer Cadet team and the resilience they all demonstrated. It is no small challenge independently navigating using map & compass through unfamiliar terrain carrying full kit over a hot summer's weekend.

All 4 Bronze DofE cadets passed their DofE Bronze Qualifying expedition and the two Silver DofE cadets (Simrat Gill & Jasleen Johar) passed so that they can progress to the 3-day, 2-night Silver DofE Qualifying Expedition in the Peak District on 1-3 July 2023.

From left to right above:

Cdt Manvir Bansal, Lt Woodcock, LCpl Simrat Gill, Cpl Jasleen Johar, Cdt LCpl Nikhil Shinh, Cdt LCpl Inayat Singh and Cdt LCpl Zain Ali Mahmoud.



SPORTS FIXTURES AND ENRICHMENT

SPORTS DAY

Sports Day took place on Friday, 7th July 2023, and it marked the first of its kind at PSA. This year, we opted for the Singh Sabha Sports Center as our venue instead of the traditional athletics track. The change in venue allowed us to focus on team sports activities throughout the entire day. As a result, student participation and engagement significantly increased, and the feedback we received from the event was overwhelmingly positive.

We are committed to continuously improving our Sports Day experience, and we value any feedback that can help us enhance the event further for Sports Day 2024. Please feel free to share any suggestions or ideas to make the upcoming Sports Day even more enjoyable and memorable for all.

Your input is vital, and we look forward to collaborating with the school community to create an exceptional Sports Day for the next academic year.

Results

Year 7 final results

	Overall points	Ranking
WA	4	3.5
HE	9	1
GU	7	2
RU	4	3.5

Year 8 final results

	Overall points	Ranking
WA	8	1
HE	4	3
GU	6	2
RU	0	4

Year 9 Final results

	Overall points	Ranking
P	4	2
S	4	2
A	4	2

Year 10 final results

	Overall points	Ranking
WA	0	2.5
HE	0	2.5
GU	0	2.5
RU	0	2.5



RASHPAL SHERGILL

Today, we are filled with excitement as we warmly welcome Rashpal Shergill to PSA. Rashpal is a qualified referee, and she recently achieved a historic milestone by becoming the first-ever South Asian female referee to officiate in a Kent County Cup Final.

Reflecting on her remarkable journey, Rashpal shared, "I never dreamed that my involvement in my children's football games would lead me to become a referee, let alone make history! I am overwhelmed and immensely proud to be recognized as the first female South Asian referee at the Kent County Cup finals. This achievement holds great significance to me as I represent females of color in the field of refereeing. I hope that by sharing my story, I can serve as a visual role model for all females, inspiring them to be courageous, take up the whistle, and embark on their extraordinary journey in refereeing."

Rashpal's journey is a testament to her dedication and passion for the sport, and she aims to encourage and empower females from all backgrounds to pursue their dreams in refereeing. Let's celebrate her success and spread the message that we ALL belong in refereeing.



DRAMA & TALENT SHOW

DRAMA NEWSLETTER

Drama has had a busy year, with many of our students going on trips and immersing themselves in the wonders of West End Theatre. Unfortunately, the Year 9 trip didn't come to fruition. However, we have been actively planning the KS3 trips and are already starting to organize the GCSE Drama trips. Mr. Bullen has some fantastic shows in mind to take the students to, ensuring they have enriching and enjoyable theater experiences



PSA TALENT SHOW

The talent show was the first of its kind at PSA. Mrs. Yousofian and Mr. Bullen asked students to audition and showcase their talents, and on 12th July, the chosen performers took the stage in front of their peers. The show featured a diverse range of talents, including singers, dancers, football skills, DJing, drumming, and a band! All the students delivered fantastic performances, and we are incredibly proud of their abilities. As a result of their outstanding performances, two acts were selected to perform at the Awards Evening.



MBE

CONGRATULATIONS NAVLEEN KAUR

It is with great pride and joy that we congratulate Sardarni Navleen Kaur, Head of Sikh Ministry at Pioneer Secondary Academy (PSA) on being awarded an MBE (Member of the Order of the British Empire) in recognition of her outstanding contributions to Women's Services, Interfaith Relations and Education. The prestigious honour was announced on the King's Birthday Honours List 2023, and it highlights Navleen's unwavering dedication and tireless efforts in promoting social harmony and empowering women in our local community.

As the Founder of Sahara Sisterhood, a revered organisation committed to the advancement and well-being of women, Navleen has been instrumental in transforming countless lives. Her passion for supporting women from diverse backgrounds and providing them with the tools and resources to thrive is truly commendable. Under her inspiring leadership, Sahara Sisterhood has flourished, creating a safe space for women to connect, grow, and achieve their full potential.

Navleen's impact extends beyond women's services. She has been an advocate for interfaith relations, fostering understanding, respect, and cooperation among people of different faiths. Her efforts have helped bridge divides and promote a more inclusive and harmonious society, where people from all walks of life can come together in unity. It is essential to understand and work within faith leadership, during the covid crisis we were able to see how faith institutions were instrumental and lead the way to supporting and helping people to open their hearts as the doors were forced shut.

As Head of Sikh Ministry at PSA, Navleen works tirelessly with our students of all faiths and none, by instilling positive messages through our Sikh Ethos, spiritual assemblies, with a focus on values, mindfulness and kindness. In addition to instilling positive messages, Navleen has created life-changing opportunities for the students such as performing on centre stage in Trafalgar Square at the London Vaisakhi festival or reading a poem at a violence against women and girls conference in front of community leaders. Recognising the potential for personal growth and transformation, Navleen has implemented programs and initiatives that empower students to explore their passions, develop their talents, and pursue their dreams.

LINK TO ONLINE ARTICLE : <https://www.sloughobserver.co.uk/news/23615095.pioneer-secondary-academy-teacher-given-mbe-kings-birthday-honours/>

KEY DATES

KEY DATES

Thu 17 August (09.00 - 10.00)

- A Level results collection



Thu 24 August (09.00 - 10.00)

- GCSE results collection

Wed 6 September

- Students Return (Year 7 and Year 12 only)

Thu 7 September

- All students return

Wed 13 September

- Year 11 Parent Information Evening

Fri 15 September

- School Photos

Wed 20 September

- Year 8 & Year 9 Parent Information Evening

Thu 21 September

- Y10 Parent Information Evening

Thu 28 September

- Year 6 Open Evening (TBC)

Thu 5 October

- Year 7 Parent Information Evening

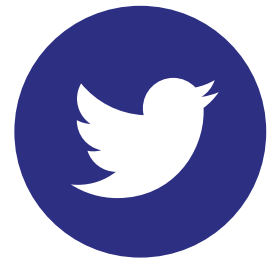
Fri 6 October

- Staff INSET (School closed for pupils)

Fri 20 October

- Last day of half term

Follow us on our
Socials!



@PSA_BUCKS

★ SCHOOLS
★ out for
SUMMER
→ ●●●