

NEWSLETTER

PSA WINTER 2024



HEADTEACHER MESSAGE

Dear Parents and Carers

As we complete another half term of the academic year, we are pleased to present the highlights to you in this edition of the PSA Newsletter.

As you explore the pages, you will catch a glimpse of the external guests and speakers, whose presence has enriched our school curriculum with valuable insights and inspiration. You'll also learn more about the exciting school trips that allowed our students to expand their horizons and create lasting memories. On the sports front, I'm delighted to say that our girls' football team has entered 2024 undefeated with a 100% winning record. You'll see our students have showcased dedication and skill, and we are proud of their achievements and their ethic of teamwork is the spirit that defines PSA.

It has been a pleasure to meet so many of you during Parents' Evenings. You will have noticed that we are now collating your valuable feedback from surveys as part of our commitment to continuous improvement.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for being a part of our community, and I wish you a restful and joyful break.

Warm regards,
Mr Sahota

KEY DATES

Mon 12 Feb	Spring half-term begins. Students return on Mon 19 Feb
Tue 20 Feb	First fencing class, 2:30pm to 3:15pm
Wed 21 Feb	Y11 Science Revision Masterclass
Mon 26 Feb	Year 11 and 12 mocks
Wed 28 Feb	CCF Nav Ex (Black Park)
Fri 1 March	Kirtan event evening
Mon 4 Mar	National Careers Week
Fri 8 Mar	International Womens Day
Mon 11 Mar	Science Week
Tue 19 Mar	Eco Sikh Day
Thu 28 Mar	Last day of Spring Term - 12pm dismissal



PSA VISITS...

Gesher Primary School for a World Religious Event

On Tuesday 23 January, some of our students had the opportunity to visit Gesher School for a World Religious Event, during which they performed Kirtan. They enjoyed spending time with the other children and learning about different faiths. They even had the opportunity to teach them how to play their instruments. Additionally, they had the opportunity to demonstrate Seva - one of our RAISE values - by offering to bring in all toys and equipment from outside during unexpected heavy rainfall. Our students willingly brought in everything from outside, ensuring that neither the staff nor the students were caught in the rain.

This programme taught me that we are all united and we need to recognise that caste, creed, and status doesn't matter. I really enjoyed this trip to Gesher School.



Theatre Royal to watch Aladdin

On Wednesday 10 January, 85 Year 7 students went on a trip to Theatre Royal in Windsor to watch the Aladdin pantomime. The entire experience was amazing and the students loved it. For many it was their first trip to the theatre, and as you can see from the message we received from an audience member, they behaved wonderfully.

During the performance, a member of the theatre production team approached Mrs Hunjan and asked if we could select two students to join the cast on stage and participate in the closing stages of the show. Migle and Tarun were selected, and whilst on stage they were asked a number of questions and then joined in with the final song. They were awarded a bag of prizes for their efforts. Mr Field will be arranging more trips this academic year to give Year 7 students more opportunities to experience new things.

I just wanted to congratulate your students for their exceptional behaviour in the theatre. When I met some of them in the corridor during the interval, they were very polite and helpful. They definitely made the performance a better experience for the rest of the audience by their interaction with the cast.

Wendy Kislingbury, President of Ashford WI

The Tate Modern

The Year 11s recently visited the Tate Modern, where they immersed themselves in a diverse array of exhibits. They explored the galleries, delving into the nuances of each piece and gaining insights into the stories behind the artwork. The PSA staff who joined the trip were pleased to see everyone enjoying themselves and navigating the space with great curiosity.

As the day concluded, the students returned to school happy and full of excitement. Their exemplary behaviour did not go unnoticed, with staff from the Tate Modern commending their enthusiasm and respect for the space.

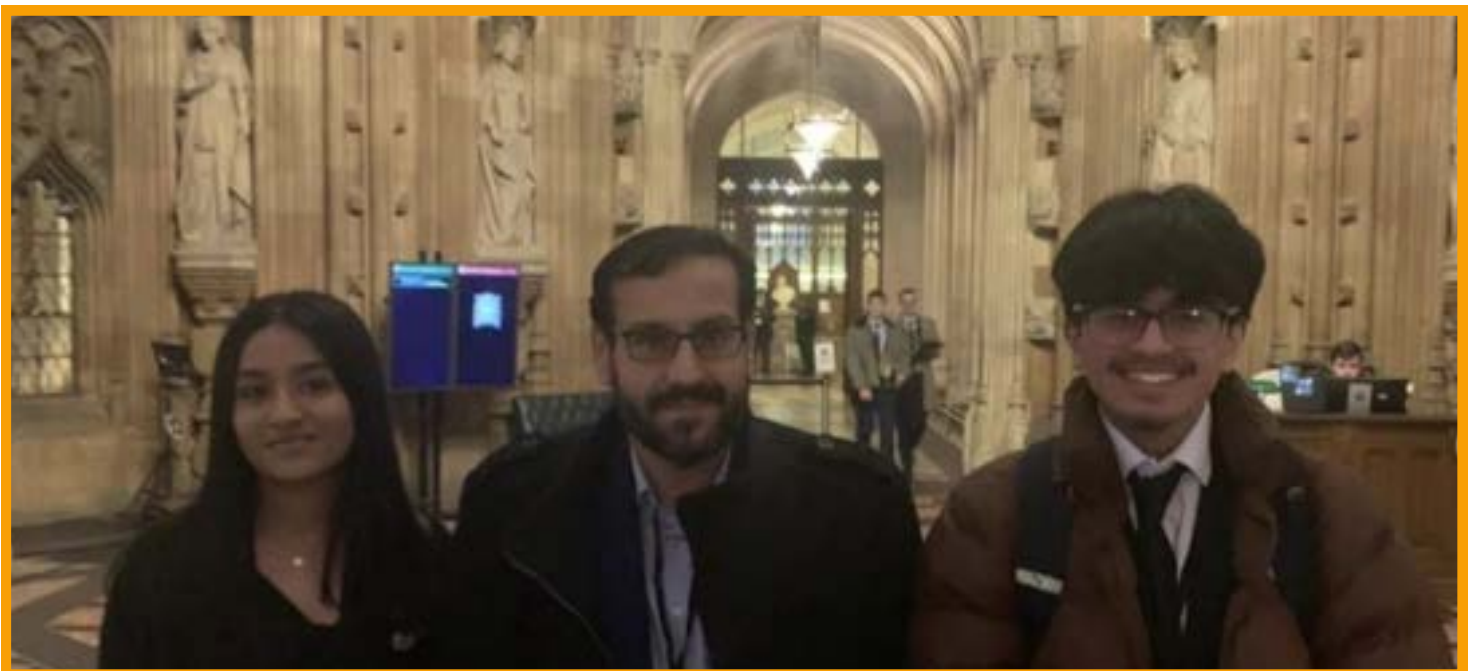
Royal Grammar School for a day of shooting

On Saturday 25 November, around 40 cadets from PSA attended the shooting day at Royal Grammar School in High Wycombe. Despite the cold, they thoroughly enjoyed the experience and learnt brand-new skills. This includes how to carry and shoot a rifle safely, understanding the different parts to the rifle, first aid, and marksmanship.

The House of Commons for an interfaith event

Our Head Students, Ruhani and Saabir, had the unique opportunity of attending an interfaith event at the House of Commons on Thursday 16 November and met very influential leaders. This included the Director of the multi-faith forum, Mustafa Field, OBE.

Straight from the House of Commons, the pair came back to PSA to deliver an engaging speech to an audience of Year 11 students and parents at our 6th Form open evening alongside Mrs Randhawa, sharing the fun memories they made at PSA and painting a picture of student life at our school.



A local care home

In November, our students visited a local care home, bringing joy to all the residents. In a warm message of appreciation, the Thursday Club and Dementia Concern thanked everyone for the delightful visit, praising our students for their musical and poetic abilities, as well as their genuine care and kindness.

A special mention was made of Ezra, who stole the show by telling the residents about himself, his Hungarian roots, and inviting them all to our school. He told the residents that there is a beautiful Gurdwara in the school where all are welcomed and feel safe. He said: "you should all come and see it!"

The staff and residents were deeply moved by the poems and pieces they heard. One resident even jumped up and asked if he could play the tabla, as 50 years ago his dad was in a band, and he would often play with him. He was in tears, saying the children took him back to his childhood.



A spontaneous dance erupted as Arjun began playing the dhol, and everyone joined in the lively celebration. In their closing remarks, Dementia Concern said they will publish our PSA year 12 poetry in their newsletter and display it in their central office. This heart-wrenching poem was written by Premleen, our year 12 Head Student:

*In the garden of memories,
Where time takes its flight,
Dementia may dim the day but not the souls light
In the tapestry of life threads may slip away,
Yet the beauty of existence in the smiles that stay
Each forgotten word,
a chance for laughter to bloom,
In the garden of empathy where love will always loom
So let's paint with colours unseen by the eye,
In the canvas of today where moments never die.*

Everyone applauded, cheering three times: "We love Pioneer Secondary, hip hop hooray!"



Our club members loved it - especially Narendra our resident drummer who couldn't wait to join in. It is always a great mix to have the elders and the young together and it becomes even more important for those who are living with dementia and who can feel very isolated. Thank you so much for the effort you and all the pupils put into making this happen - it was a great experience and very moving and enjoyable for all involved.

Linda Byrne, member of the management team at the care home

EVENTS AT PSA

A spiritual event with Sahara Sisterhood



I attended the session with my daughter who attends PSA. We really appreciated the time together and opportunity to be creative and look after ourselves minds and bodies through yoga, meditation and the sound bath.

We think it's an amazing and much needed initiative, providing a safe and nurturing space for females in this often busy and stressful world. Thank you so much.

The Sahara Sisterhood event took place on 21 January at our school. This special event brought together women and girls to participate in a peaceful yoga and meditation session, followed by some engaging creative activities. We were pleased to see everyone having such a wonderful time.



Celebrating Guru Gobind Singh Ji's birthday

To celebrate the birthday of the tenth and last living Guru, Guru Gobind Singh Ji, we were pleased to welcome Ustad Sukhwant Singh Ji to PSA.

Following his spiritual assembly, our students participated in workshops, learning classical music instruments and vocals. They were brilliant - they really immersed themselves in the event and had a lot of fun.



Sahej Paath

We are now coming up to our third week of the Sahej Paath, which PSA students and staff are carrying out in honour of the 40th anniversary of the June 1984 Sikh genocide.

It has been four decades since the tragic events of 1984. Today, many individuals continue to bear the emotional scars of the things they witnessed and the loved ones they lost. To honour and remember this poignant chapter in history, the Sahej Paath (a meditative and reflective reading of the Sri Guru Granth Sahib from start to finish) began on 15 January and will be completed in June 2024.



Celebrating Guru Nanak Dev Ji's birthday

To celebrate the birthday of the first Guru, our school came together on Wednesday 29 November with a special spiritual assembly and an amazing line-up of 10 inspirational guest speakers with the theme of celebrating the oneness of humanity.

Remembering the Chotay Sahibzaadaay

In commemoration of the Shaheedi (translates to "martyrdom") of the Chotay Sahibzaaday (the four sons of Guru Gobind Singh), PSA organised a Kirtan and langar on 18 December at Gurdwara Guru Amradass Ji in Southall. The students performed wonderfully, and joined members of the community in remembrance of this solemn event in history,

Bandi Chorr

Thank you to everyone who joined in on the fun on 12 November as we celebrated Bandi Chorr at Khalsa Primary School. It was wonderful to see all guests enjoy the funfair and the performances by the children, and the fireworks display was a magical way to end the night!

PSA welcomes the CEO of Nishkam SWAT



Our students were very excited to welcome the CEO of Nishkam SWAT, an organisation that runs one of the largest Sikh charities serving the homeless in the UK.

The students were trained during lunch time and as a result, they became certified and insured to go out into the streets and serve the homeless in Slough once a week.

Staff and students collaborated to collect items to donate this term. Thank you PSA family for your support and for joining us in showcasing our RAISE values by serving humanity!



Respect



Aspire



Integrity



Seva



Equality

Visit from Jaspal Singh, NxtGen Innovators

On 4 December, Year 11 students welcomed Jaspal Singh from NextGen Innovators to their assembly. He introduced stemtutoring.co.uk's curriculum workshops, designed to bolster exam preparation. Thanks to their donor support, we were delighted to offer discounted tutoring in Maths, Biology, Physics, Chemistry, and Computer Science, enriching our students' educational journey!



Bowling competition winners

On 29 January, six students participated in a bowling competition at Salt Hill Activity Centre. They were all very enthusiastic and excited, and they enjoyed the game a lot! The team spirit was high; they shared some excellent techniques with one another. As a result, they managed to secure first place and obtained a trophy for our school. Pwitpreet (Year 8) also managed to get a certificate for achieving the highest score in the game. Here are our winners: Jayren (Year 7), Ezra (Year 8), Ekam (Year 8), Pwitpreet (Year 8), Navraj (Year 10), and Harry (Year 10)



Pathway to Paris winners

Year 7WA have won Pathway to Paris equipment as a result of logging their physical activity online.

They were very excited, and hope to continue on their fitness journey. Who knows, maybe they'll be watching the Olympics in person in Paris!



Year 7s at the multi-sports event

Our Year 7s performed brilliantly at the borough-led, multi-sports event at The Centre in Slough. From speed stacking to fencing, they did it all, and they truly excelled. We loved seeing them shine and have such a fantastic time.



Year 10s officiating a primary school Invictus Games event

A group of Year 10 students were selected to officiate at a primary school Invictus Games event on Tuesday 16 January. They were absolutely amazing - they were professional and encouraged the primary school students throughout with their cheering, clear instructions, and positive energy. It was wonderful to witness their outstanding contributions at the event. They all worked extremely well.

Kicking off in style

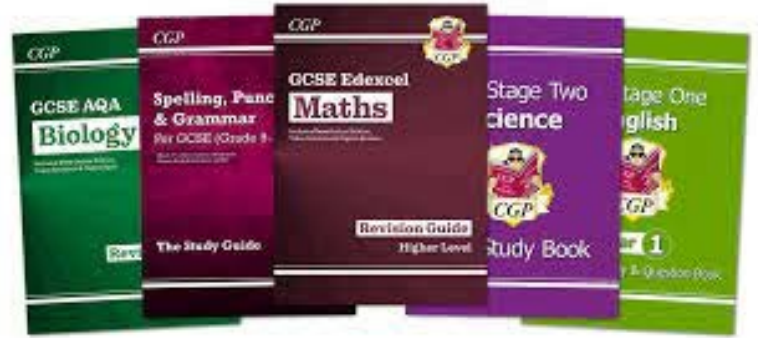
Modelling their brand-new kit, the girls football team started the season with a 1-0 victory against Herschel Grammar, courtesy of stunning strike from Parneet. They then continued their strong start to the season with a fantastic 2-0 victory against a very talented Ditton Park (goals coming from Anaia and Jaskeerat) and Langley Grammar School (goals coming from Jiya and Jaiya).

An all round fantastic performance saw the team demonstrating their flair and skill on the pitch. Well done, everyone!



TEACHING AND LEARNING

In our commitment to driving teaching and learning standards, every child now has a mini whiteboard which will be used for assessments and tracking the pupil's progress. Additionally, each student in Year 11 has received a CPG revision book for all subjects. These resources aim to enhance independent study and contribute to a supportive learning environment.



Discover what pupils learn at PSA and explore our Curriculum!

As usual, this term our teachers have been working diligently on their curriculum and lesson plans. We are continuously enhancing our curriculum in each subject, ensuring that what we teach is ambitious and rich, and enables our pupils to know more, remember more, and do more.

We would like to remind parents that they can read about what their child will learn throughout the year by clicking 'Curriculum' on our school website. Parents can also engage in their child's learning by discussing their Topic Sheet, which details the knowledge and skills they will learn each half term. The Topic Sheets can be found in each pupil's exercise book.



COMING SOON

The 21st Century Parent (Special offer)

The parental challenges today are greater than ever. Be in no doubt, the number one cause of these increased challenges is technology.

Many parents are struggling to deal with the impact technology has had on their children, and many are unable to resolve issues that arise.

The 21st Century Parent is a brand new programme that upskills parents on key issues facing children, whilst also allowing parents to become part of a community where we can learn from one another. As part of this programme, you get access to six interactive webinars that will increase your knowledge of the issue and provide you with practical advice and guidance on how to minimise the risks and open up communication channels with your child. You also get a one-to-one coaching session with facilitator, Amit Kalley, a former Deputy Headteacher and now ICF Parent Coach.

The six week programme will increase your knowledge, upskill you, and guide you on how to effectively communicate with your child to ensure your relationship is as strong as possible.

For parents of PSA, the course is offered at a discounted rate of £349, so please sign up as soon as possible before places fill up.

If you want to register or want to know more, please email amit@forworkingparents.com

Classroom to Careers

National Apprenticeship Week (NAW) took place 5-11 February! This celebration of on-the-job learning only comes around once a year, here are some upcoming events, as well as some that have already taken place.

- Festival of Apprenticeships - 5 Feb add links for all bullet points
- The Big Assembly - 5 Feb
- National Apprenticeship Week 2024 - Bucks Skills Hub Registration (Levels 2, 3 & 4) - 6 Feb
- National Apprenticeship Week 2024 - Bucks Skills Hub Registration (Level 6) - 7 Feb
- Bucks Skills Show - 6 Mar (please note that daytime tickets are fully booked, but career changers or students accompanied by parents can come along between 4pm and 8pm. Reserve a spot today.)
- National Apprenticeship Show - 13 Mar

For further information, visit the [Buckinghamshire Skills Hub](https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/skills-hub) website.

MERIT LEADERBOARD

Congratulations to the Tutor Groups with the most merits and the top-scoring students in each year group. Well done, everyone!



Year 7 winner



Year 8 winner



Year 9 winner



Year 10 winner



Year 11 winner

Year 7	
Rubina	32
Sian	30
Chloe	29

Year 8	
Khushi	29
Mannat	25
Jasmeen	24

Year 9	
Aumbar	22
Zainab	22
Amrit	21

Year 10	
Yapneet	33
Gurleen	32
Komalpreet	28

Year 11	
Jaiya	9
Avneet	6
Alizay	6

For the latest news, follow us on socials:



@PSA_Bucks

