

# NEWSLETTER

PSA SUMMER 2024



## HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents and Carers

As we end this half term, I want to express my gratitude for the unwavering support and dedication of our entire school community.

The Vaisakhi celebrations at our school showcased the spirit of Seva and community, reminding us of the importance of selfless service. Our Year 12 students' exploration of post-18 opportunities at the UCAS Discovery event, our girls' football team competing in the NFL Flag Football League, and the inspiring workshops led by former GB Paralympian Louise Hunt are just a few examples of how we continue to achieve greatness together. I'm also incredibly proud of our Year 11 students for their hard work and dedication as they approach the end of their exams. Their achievements are a testament to the integrity and perseverance that we hold dear.

Finally, our ongoing commitment to enhancing teaching and learning has been recognised and appreciated by our School Council. We're thrilled that our focus on training and development is improving our students' experience in the classroom.

Looking ahead, my focus is on continuing to promote our exceptional behaviour and attitudes and fostering the positivity we instill across our school every day.

I am really looking forward to another great half term at PSA! Enjoy our newsletter.

Mr Keshani  
Headteacher

## KEY DATES

Sat 8 Jun	Year 6 pupils visit PSA
Thu 20 Jun	Parent Forum
20 - 27 Jun	Year 10 and 12 Exams
Fri 21 Jun	Year 11 Prom
Thu 27 Jun	Year 5 Taster Day
Fri 28 Jun	Staff Inset Day <b>School Closed for students</b>
Mon 1 Jul	Post 16 Taster Day
Tue 2 Jul	Year 6 > 7 Transition Day
Thu 4 Jul	Parent Forum
Fri 5 Jul	Kirtan Evening Event
8 - 12 Jul	CCF Outward Bound
Wed 10 Jul	Sports Day
Thu 11 Jul	Awards Evening
15 - 19 Jul	Charity Fundraiser
Fri 19 July	Last day of Summer Term <b>12.00pm dismissal</b>

## Wembley Stadium for the FA's Vaisakhi celebration

Wednesday 1 May was an unforgettable day as our students had the honour of participating in the FA's Vaisakhi event at Wembley Stadium. This event celebrated the rich diversity within football and showcased the importance of unity and perseverance.

Trailblazers such as Sunny Singh Gill (the first South Asian professional referee in the men's game), Amrik Hare (Newcastle United FC U9-14s goalkeeping coach), Rashpal Shergill (BAMREF representative and female Sikh referee), and many more shared their inspiring experiences, leaving a lasting impact on everyone present. Their words echoed the essence of community and determination, reminding us of the strength found in diversity.

The highlight of the day was when five of our students from PSA and KPS took to Wembley Stadium pitch side to recite the Chaupi Sahib paath flawlessly in front of esteemed guests and speakers. Witnessing them perform at such an iconic venue was truly remarkable. Seeing our students in the VIP seats, participating in an event so significant in the Sikh calendar, filled us with immense pride.

Let's continue to celebrate diversity, unity, and the power of sport to bring people together.





# Oslo for Turban Day

Students of PSA marked Turban Day in the beautiful city of Oslo in Norway, joining hands with approximately 20,000 Norwegians and communities to celebrate this occasion. From wonderful performances of musical instruments to tying turbans with pride, it was a day filled with selfless service and cultural exchange. Our students were proud and grateful to be part of such an amazing celebration.



# Khalsa Primary School to plant trees

Students from Pioneer Secondary Academy joined Khalsa Primary School in a mission to make the school a greener place. Together, the students planted over 100 tree saplings around the school! Thanks to their efforts, the results will contribute to cleaner air, enhanced biodiversity, and provide habitats for wildlife. A big shoutout to all the students and staff members who got their hands dirty and made this project possible.



# The Punjabi Mela

Our talented students performed a wonderful Kirtan for the attendees of the Punjabi Mela event in Hounslow. Their impeccable behaviour didn't go unnoticed; attendees praised their respectfulness throughout the event. A huge well done to our amazing students for representing us so brilliantly.



# UCAS Discovery

Our Year 12 students had an excellent day exploring Post-18 opportunities at the UCAS Discovery event in Farnborough. There were opportunities to meet with universities, apprenticeships, and employment pathways. It was an informative day with lots of insight, and our students shared positive feedback upon their return to PSA.





## Vaisakhi 2024

Vaisakhi is a joyous day that marks the birth of the Sikh community by Guru Gobind Singh Ji (the tenth Sikh Guru) in 1699. Our celebrations for this important event began on 17 April. The day started with special assemblies where our students learned about Vaisakhi through engaging presentations. These assemblies featured Kirtan by our sevadaars and an educational video from Basics of Sikhi, which highlighted five key facts about Vaisakhi.

The PSA canteen also served langar throughout the day, and the staff room got a special delivery of some jalebis. To top it all off, our students gathered in the playground to witness a falconry display.

The next day, celebrations continued with another special assembly for our students. Following this, we took all Year 7 and some of our Sixth Form - to Singh Sabha Gurdwara Slough, where they engaged in various seva activities. Seva, meaning selfless service, is one of our core values at PSA, encapsulated in our RAISE values: Respect, Aspire, Integrity, and Equality.

Upon arrival at the Gurdwara, our students joined in peaceful meditation in the hall while their peers performed Kirtan. They were then briefed on their seva activities and divided into groups to undertake various tasks, including serving langar, hoovering, sweeping, cleaning windows, and maintaining the cleanliness of the Gurdwara's facilities. Their behaviour and the beautiful Kirtan performances made a lasting impression on the community.

These days have been nothing short of amazing, filling our school community with joy and unity. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed to making our Vaisakhi celebrations a truly memorable experience for our students.





## PSA girls take the NFL

We're so proud of the PSA girls' football team for representing the New York Jets in the NFL Girls Flag Football League! Kicking off the season with passion and determination, our girls have hit the field every week for the last five weeks, showcasing great teamwork and sportsmanship. They loved learning about the sport, training with NFL players like Tremaine Edmunds and Quincy Williams, and meeting inspiring former players like Jason Bell and Tony Richardson. We're thrilled to see them reach the finals and have such an amazing time while doing so. Well done, everyone!



## Beyond the Baseline project

Former Team GB Paralympian Louise Hunt delivered the first of three workshops for our Year 10 students. In this program, Louise uses tennis as a tool to help students build skills such as confidence, communication, and leadership. We look forward to welcoming Louise back to the school next week for the second workshop.





# PSA ACHIEVEMENTS

## Junior Maths Challenge

Well done to our Year 7 and 8 students for taking part in this term's Junior Maths Challenge, and to the following students who achieved an award for their efforts:

- Year 7 Bronze: Avnit, Simrina, Simrit, Navreet, Jasneet, Snehdeep, Jaskirat, Deshika, Arshpreet, Sehajpreet, Hridyaa, Agammjot, and Gurtaj
- Year 7 Silver: Harleen
- Year 8 Bronze: Diltaj, Sahek, Khushi, Muizz, Balihaar, Jasmeet, Jessica, and Amrit
- Year 8 Silver: Mia and Mantaj
- Best in the Year: Harbir and Gurekam (joint winners in Year 8)



## Celebrating our Year 11s

Friday 24 May marked a significant milestone for our Year 11 students as they celebrated their last official day of school. We are incredibly proud of the dedication and effort they have shown, throughout their exams. Their hard work is truly commendable.

The day was made memorable with a leavers' assembly, where staff and students reminisced about their journey and achievements during their time at PSA. They then got together in the playground to take pictures and sign each other's shirts, creating lasting mementos of their time together.

As they continue through the exam period, we wish them the very best and look forward to celebrating their results and future successes.





# TEACHING AND LEARNING

## Enhancing the teaching and learning experiences at PSA

We are excited to share our ongoing commitment to enhancing the teaching and learning experiences at our school. Our dedicated teachers are continuously developing innovative strategies to engage students and foster a love for learning. We use an evidence based approach to teaching and these strategies are having a great impact on the students. Just last week, our School Council reported that this term ***“the teaching practices have really improved!”***

Our classroom pedagogy includes impactful strategies such as: using formative assessment using mini whiteboards, effectively responding to correct misunderstanding, and deepening students' understanding of key concepts through paired discussion activities. Remember, you can see what your child is learning by asking them to show you their topic sheets, or visiting the School Website and clicking on Curriculum.

### The PSA Consistent Classroom teaching toolkit



## AMBITIOUS INTENT

Expert subject knowledge	Sequencing of content	Modelling	Inspirational teaching	Reading
Teachers demonstrate expert disciplinary knowledge and use it to plan and implement effective teaching and assessment.	Teachers identify the most important knowledge and sequence components so that pupils reach ambitious end points as identified in the curriculum plans.	Teachers demonstrate knowledge and skills by breaking down complex processes into manageable steps. These are explained clearly and concisely to pupils.	Teachers are enthusiastic and passionate about their subject. They motivate and inspire students and cultivate a love of learning for the subject.	Teachers promote a love for reading within the subject by incorporating opportunities for reading high quality texts.

## IMPLEMENTATION

**Retrieval practice** The do now activity is based upon previous learning to support long-term memory and recall.

**Questioning** Teachers use a range of questioning techniques throughout the lesson. Teachers assess pupils' responses and use these to inform adaptations to their teaching.

**Adaptive teaching** Teachers adapt their instructional methods, responding to correct misunderstanding or embed the learning.

**Mini whiteboards** Teachers use mini whiteboards to carry out whole - class assessments and identify where pupils are in their learning. These are used to identify errors and quickly correct misconceptions.

**Improving independent practice** Teachers provide clear verbal and written feedback to pupils. Pupils respond to the feedback verbally and in writing in DIRT feedback sheets (in green).

**Topic sheets and Personal Learning Checklists (PLCs)** Teachers refer to topic sheets and PLCs to enable pupils to make connections with their learning. Teachers use PLCs to identify gaps and address misconceptions.

## IMPACT

**Appropriate level of challenge** Teachers set work that is ambitious, rigorous and robust. This challenge allows pupils to deepen their understanding through the application of knowledge and skills in new contexts.

**Write, Pair, Share** Pupils deepen their understanding of key concepts through paired discussion activities, which teachers set by posing appropriate questions. Pupils independently gather their thoughts, discuss and feedback to the class.

**Independent practice** Teachers assign tasks aligned with intended end points, ensuring that independent practice is the focus of the lesson. This phase aims for students to create significant, high-quality, independent work, contributing to long-term memory retention.

**Homework** Teachers set homework providing students with an opportunity to consolidate their understanding, broaden their contextual knowledge, and extend their learning.

## LESSON BEHAVIOURS AND ROUTINES

Warm welcome	Rewarding best practice	Cognitive load	Aspire and ambition	Behaviour policy
Teachers greet pupils warmly at the door ensuring a quiet and orderly entry into the classroom. Dismissal is orderly and prompt.	Teachers praise positive behaviours, contributions and effort using praise and rewards.	Teachers expertly manage pupils' cognitive load by clear exposition, modelling accurately and chunking the learning.	Teachers are ambitious and maximise teaching time. Students are set ambitious targets and work hard to achieve them.	Teachers manage behaviours positively and promptly. Teachers ensure appropriate levels of escalation are used, in line with the school policy.

Respect Aspire Integrity Seva Equality

## ATTENDANCE

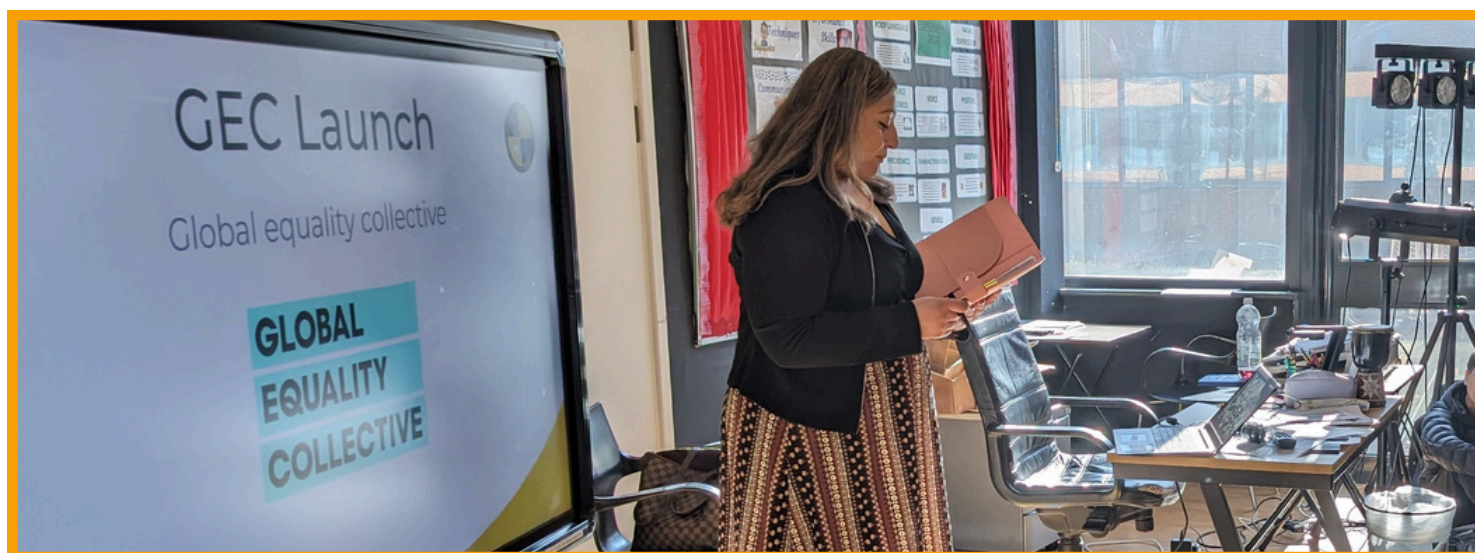
We urge you to take a few moments to read our [Attendance Booklet](#) on the importance of your child's attendance in school. Regular school attendance is undeniably linked to academic success. When children miss classes - whether due to taking days off or arriving late - they miss vital aspects of their education.

At PSA, we strictly adhere to government guidelines, which is why we do not permit holidays or any leave during term time. We expect our students to aim for a minimum of **96%** attendance. Missing school can create gaps in your child's understanding, which can ultimately impact their grades, confidence, and future opportunities.

By ensuring your child attends school regularly, you are supporting their educational journey and helping them build a strong foundation for success.

## Jasmine Shergill

We had the pleasure of hosting Jasmine Shergill at Pioneer Secondary Academy. She spoke to our Year 10 students about her work experience placement back when she was in school and how it helped her in her journey to eventually owning her own business. We're grateful to Jasmine for coming in and inspiring our future leaders.



## Amit Kalley

Amit Kalley, the co-founder of For Working Parents, visited PSA on Wednesday 15 May for a session packed with invaluable insights and strategies to empower parents in supporting their children. The audience, consisting of parents and carers of PSA and KPS students, remained engaged throughout, asking questions as Amit provided helpful answers, aiding them in their journey to building a stronger connection with their child.

We're grateful for his dedication to empowering families.





# MERIT LEADERBOARD

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Congratulations to the Tutor Groups with the most merits!



Year 7 winner



Year 8 winner



Year 9 winner



Year 10 winner

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