



Dear Parents and Carers

Monday 15 July

September Changes and Reminders

It has been a privilege to lead Pioneer Secondary Academy this term, and I am grateful for your trust and support. This letter outlines some of the changes you and your child can expect in September. This letter is in addition to our usual Newsletter publication, which you will receive shortly.

Each of the changes outlined below will further improve your child's experience at the school, and enable them to achieve the best possible outcomes throughout their journey here. Many of these improvements come as a result of your feedback and I will continue to work with you to improve academic standards at the school.

Assessment

We have scheduled all assessments for your child's subjects, as well as the mock exams for Key Stage 4 and 5 groups. The dates are now final, and you can find the Assessment Calendar on pages 6 and 7 of this letter. By knowing these dates in advance, you can better support your child at home, helping them feel more prepared for their upcoming assessments throughout the year.

Reports

Our Key Stage 3 reports have been improved to give you a clearer picture of your child's progress over the term. These reports will include your child's percentage scores for each assessment. After each assessment, your child will receive a DIRT Feedback sheet that provides specific advice on how they can improve their understanding of the topics covered. Based on these assessments, teachers will reteach any areas where your child needs additional help to ensure they fully understand the material and can continue to progress effectively.

Timetable

We will be changing our two-week timetable (currently Week A and Week B) to a one-week timetable. This means every week students will have the same lessons at the same time, eradicating the confusion that Week A and B occasionally caused. It will reduce the number of classes that have two or three different teachers, meaning students and staff will have greater consistency in the classroom.



PE in the Sefton Sports Hall

Our students will now enjoy at least one hour of PE each week in a brand new Sports Hall located just behind our playground on the Sefton Site. This facility will allow them to participate in indoor sports, reducing the time spent traveling to and from the Singh Saba Sports facility. This enhancement to our PE curriculum ensures that students can play sports regardless of the weather, providing a richer and more consistent physical education experience.

Embedding of the Split Lunchtime

The trial of split lunchtimes has concluded and will become a permanent routine starting in September. This change provides younger students with a quieter, less crowded environment to eat and socialise with their friends under full supervision. They also have exclusive access to the playgrounds without sharing them with older students. Older students benefit from shorter food queues and have the option to use the playgrounds or sit quietly to study.

New Form Tutors

Starting in September, we will be allocating Form Tutors to tutor groups based in subject areas. For example, Year 10 will be located in the Maths corridor, with their Tutors being the Maths teachers. This allows the Head of Year 10, Mr Bullen, to see his entire year group daily and address any concerns or issues immediately. Year 11 will be in the English corridor with English teachers as their Form Tutors, Year 9 with Science teachers, Year 8 with Language teachers, and Year 7 with Humanities and Art teachers. We want our students to build strong relationships with all of their teachers. It is important for students to trust a whole range of adults and feel supported by the entire school community. Additionally, our GCSE year groups will have access to English and maths specialist teachers every day so they can achieve highly. Your child will be informed of these changes next week, as well as who their new Form Tutor will be.

Our Heads of Year for 2024 - 2025 are as follows:

Year 7 and Year 8 - Mr Field

Year 9 - Mr Wilson

Year 10 - Mr Bullen

Year 11 - Mrs Toor

Year 12 and Year 13 - Mrs Dhindsa



Reading Intervention Programme

Each morning and afternoon, our English team and support staff will deliver Reading Intervention programmes. This is to improve the levels of literacy amongst our student body so they can access as much of our curriculum as possible. The recent pilot has been a huge success and we will continue to enhance this programme in September. You can help by reading to your child and listening to them read every day. Discuss what your child has read and ask them questions on their understanding of the text. You will note a further school drive on reading in the coming months.

Curriculum Maps

Our Curriculum Maps are now finalised. You can find out what your child is learning at each stage of their studies by visiting our website and clicking on Curriculum. If you can purchase reading material related to our curriculum, please do so, as it can greatly support your child's progress in the coming years.

OTHER NOTICES

Farewells

We would like to wish some of our esteemed colleagues all the best as they embark on new ventures. Ms Stone will take on the Headship at a Special School in Dulwich. Ms Harb is relocating to Dubai, Mr Mangan to Yorkshire, and Mr Regnier is also moving on to new opportunities. On behalf of the entire school community, I thank them wholeheartedly for their relentless dedication to the students and families of our school. We wish them every success in their future endeavours.

We would like to welcome the following colleagues in September, many of whom have supported outstanding schools up and down the country. We look forward to working with them in the new academic year.

Mariam Ahmed - Teacher of Spanish

Hannah Burton - Head of English

Mandhiraj Dhindsa - Head of Sixth Form

Rene Hodge - Teacher of Personal Development

Sabina Lallian - Associate Assistant Headteacher Personal Development

Henry Lee - Teacher of Maths

Nittan Mann - Lead Practitioner in Science

Lauren Moorhouse - Teacher of Art



Safeguarding

From September 2024, Mrs Day will be the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead and Mrs Summerell Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead. You will receive our regular Safeguarding Bulletin in the coming days. Please read this carefully as it contains important information we would like all parents to know. As usual, if you have a Safeguarding concern, you may contact safeguarding@psa-bucks.com at any time.

Attendance

If your child misses their lesson, whether by taking days off or by arriving late to school, they will miss vital aspects of their education. As such, we do not permit holidays or any leave during term time. As per the new guidelines coming into force from August 2024, parents may be issued with a fixed penalty notice which will require a payment of £160 per parent, per child, within 28 days for unauthorised term-time leave or irregular attendance. Additional offences carry further more serious penalties.

Uniform

It is essential to ensure your child has the necessary school uniform. Please check that your child's uniform still fits. If items are becoming too small, please purchase new ones so they are well-prepared for September. If you would like to buy pre-owned items, please contact the school office. Please read our Uniform Policy on our website under Students > School Uniform. Students should now only wear PSA-branded clothing. KSA branding is no longer part of our school uniform. Please note that makeup must not be worn by pupils. Hoodies are not allowed in school and will be confiscated if worn by pupils.

Equipment for lessons

Every student must be equipped with the following at all times: A clear pencil case containing the following items: a 30cm ruler, a rubber, four black or blue pens, two green pens, two pencils, a protractor, a compass, a scientific calculator (Casio Fx-83 or Fx-85), a glue stick, a mini whiteboard, two whiteboard pens, highlighters, and colouring pencils. Having these items in their pencil case will help students be better prepared for their studies and they are more likely to succeed.



Pioneer Secondary Academy

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Parents of Sixth Form students

We are asking all Sixth Form students to do the following, please discuss this with them:

- organise your school supplies, including folders and stationery
- read around the subject and use course textbooks and other endorsed materials to study
- research universities, apprenticeships, and career opportunities to understand your options after sixth-form
- plan and organise your study schedule for the upcoming year, including setting goals and timelines for coursework and exam preparation

Start of term

Please see below the dates and times for the start of our new term.

New Year 7, Year 11 and Year 12 only must be in by 8.00am on Wednesday 4 September

All Year Groups - must be in by 8.00am on Thursday 5 September

Providing your child with the highest quality of education will always be my priority. I am grateful to you for your support. I look forward to working closely with you to make next year highly successful.

Shilain Keshani

Headteacher



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	Week	Week beginning	YEAR 7	YEAR 8	YEAR 9	YEAR 10	YEAR 11	YEAR 12	YEAR 13
AUTUMN	1	2 Sep							
	2	9 Sep							
	3	16 Sep							
	4	23 Sep							
	5	30 Sep							
	6	7 Oct	Assessments (in class)	Assessments (in class)	Assessments (in class)	Assessments (in class)	Assessments (in class)	Assessments (in class)	Assessments (in class)
	7	14 Oct	DIRT Feedback and Reteach	DIRT Feedback and Reteach	DIRT Feedback and Reteach	DIRT Feedback and Reteach	DIRT Feedback and Reteach	DIRT Feedback and Reteach	DIRT Feedback and Reteach
	8	28 Oct							
	9	4 Nov							
	10	11 Nov							
	11	18 Nov							
	12	25 Nov					MOCKS		MOCKS
	13	2 Dec	Assessments (in class) DIRT Feedback and Reteach	Assessments (in class) DIRT Feedback and Reteach	Assessments (in class) DIRT Feedback and Reteach	Assessments (in class) DIRT Feedback and Reteach	Feedback and Reteach	Assessments (in class) DIRT Feedback and Reteach	Feedback and Reteach
	14	9 Dec	Data Drop Deadline (Thurs 12 Dec)	Data Drop Deadline (Thurs 12 Dec)	Data Drop Deadline (Thurs 12 Dec)	Data Drop Deadline (Thurs 12 Dec)	Data Drop Deadline (Thurs 12 Dec)	Data Drop Deadline (Thurs 12 Dec)	Data Drop Deadline (Thurs 12 Dec)
	15	16 Dec	Progress Reports published	Progress Reports published	Progress Reports published	Progress Reports published	Progress Reports published	Progress Reports published	Progress Reports published

	Week	Week beginning	YEAR 7	YEAR 8	YEAR 9	YEAR 10	YEAR 11	YEAR 12	YEAR 13
SPRING	16	6 Jan					EXTERNAL EXAMINATIONS (BTEC)		EXTERNAL EXAMINATIONS (BTEC)
	17	13 Jan							
	18	20 Jan							
	19	27 Jan							
	20	3 Feb	Assessments (in class)	Assessments (in class)	Assessments (in class)	Assessments (in class)	Assessments (in class)	Assessments (in class)	Assessments (in class)
	21	10 Feb	DIRT Feedback and Reteach	DIRT Feedback and Reteach	DIRT Feedback and Reteach	DIRT Feedback and Reteach	DIRT Feedback and Reteach	DIRT Feedback and Reteach	DIRT Feedback and Reteach
	22	24 Feb							
	23	3 Mar					MOCKS		MOCKS
	24	10 Mar							
	25	17 Mar	Assessments (in class) DIRT Feedback and Reteach	Assessments (in class) DIRT Feedback and Reteach	Assessments (in class) DIRT Feedback and Reteach	Assessments (in class) DIRT Feedback and Reteach	Feedback and Reteach	Assessments (in class) DIRT Feedback and Reteach	Feedback and Reteach
	26	24 Mar	Data Drop Deadline (Thurs 27 March)	Data Drop Deadline (Thurs 27 March)	Data Drop Deadline (Thurs 27 March)	Data Drop Deadline (Thurs 27 March)	Data Drop Deadline (Thurs 27 March)	Data Drop Deadline (Thurs 27 March)	Data Drop Deadline (Thurs 27 March)
	27	31 Mar	Progress Reports published	Progress Reports published	Progress Reports published	Progress Reports published	Progress Reports published	Progress Reports published	Progress Reports published



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SUMMER	28	21 Apr							
	29	28 Apr							
	30	5 May							
	31	12 May	Assessments (in class)	Assessments (in class)	Assessments (in class)	Assessments (in class)	EXTERNAL EXAMINATIONS	Assessments (in class)	EXTERNAL EXAMINATIONS
	32	19 May	DIRT Feedback and Reteach	DIRT Feedback and Reteach	DIRT Feedback and Reteach	DIRT Feedback and Reteach		DIRT Feedback and Reteach	
	33	2 Jun					EXTERNAL EXAMINATIONS		EXTERNAL EXAMINATIONS
	34	9 Jun							
	35	16 Jun							
	36	23 Jun				MOCKS		MOCKS	
	37	30 Jun	Assessments (in class)	Assessments (in class)	Assessments (in class)				
	38	7 Jul	DIRT Feedback and Reteach	DIRT Feedback and Reteach	DIRT Feedback and Reteach	DIRT Feedback and Reteach		DIRT Feedback and Reteach	
	39	14 Jul	Progress Reports published	Progress Reports published	Progress Reports published	Progress Reports published		Progress Reports published	