

NEWSLETTER

PSA SUMMER 2024



HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

Thank you for the positive feedback on the letter I sent to all parents on Friday 12 July. In that letter, I outlined many of the changes we will implement based on your input and support. If you have not had a chance to read it yet, please do so at your earliest convenience. You can access the letter via our website > Newsletters > Letter from the Headteacher July. The letter highlights my ongoing commitment to significantly raise academic standards so that our children continue to thrive and become brilliant citizens.

Today, I welcome you to an action-packed edition of our school newsletter! We are thrilled to share the incredible achievements and unforgettable moments from the past half term at the school. Our Year 8 students wowed many local schools and businesses with their inspiring Bite Back presentation, and our CCF students had the adventure of a lifetime in the Lake District. The Sixth Form Taster Day was a huge hit and gave students an insightful glimpse into their bright futures.

We celebrated our Year 11 departure in style at their prom, honoured tradition with Chabeel Day, and marked the completion of the Sahej Paath with a heartfelt ceremony. Our Sports Day was a roaring success, and former Paralympian Louise Hunt left a lasting impact with her empowering tennis workshops.

A massive thank you for your continued support and enthusiasm. Enjoy your read and I will see you in September.

Mr Keshani

KEY DATES

Thu 15 Aug	A Level Results Day
Thu 22 Aug	GCSE Results Day & Post 16 Enrolment 9.00am
Mon 2 Sep	Staff Inset Day (school closed for students)
Tue 3 Sep	Staff Inset Day (school closed for students)
Wed 4 Sep	Term starts for pupils in Year 7, 11 and 12 only
Thu 5 Sep	Term starts for all other Year Groups
Wed 25 Sep	Early dismissal for students (Open Evening)
Thu 26 Sep	Open Evening 5.00pm - 7.00pm
Fri 27 Sep	Open Morning 9.00am - 10.30am
Fri 4 Oct	Staff Inset Day
Fri 18 Oct	Autumn Term 1 Ends

Bite Back

Our amazing Year 8 students visited Aylesbury for a group presentation on Bite Back!

They shared how important healthy eating is, the changes we've made at Pioneer Secondary Academy, and how it's benefiting everyone.

A huge well done to our students for presenting so well and so confidently!



Wellington College for the Festival of Education

It was a privilege to be part of the GEC's Festival of Education and meet educators and experts from across the UK as we talked, listened, and learned about education.

To speak from a student perspective at this event, our sixth formers were invited to join Nic Ponsford, founder of the GEC, in the "Students. First, Always." session. They discussed the importance of student voice in education, highlighting the impact of inclusion, well-being, and intersectionality in edtech. It was a very proud moment for us to see our students speak with such passion and insight at a huge event like this at Wellington College.



Wimbledon

Our students had an unforgettable first experience at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships! They explored the Wimbledon Tennis Museum, witnessed an exciting match between Casper Ruud and Fabio Fognini, and soaked up the lively atmosphere on the iconic Henman Hill while watching Centre Court action on the big screens. It was wonderful to see how happy the students were, and they behaved immaculately throughout the entire day.



The Lake District for the CCF Outward Bound trip

Our CCF students had an amazing time on the CCF Outward Bound trip in the Lake District! Our group of 17 students and three staff members had an unforgettable experience filled with adventure and team building. They tackled challenges like rowing across lakes, hiking through stunning landscapes, and even spent nights in a cosy lodge in the mountains. The trip culminated with thrilling activities such as gorge walking, cliff jumping, and heartwarming evenings around the campfire. It was a journey of resilience, teamwork, and unforgettable memories for all involved!

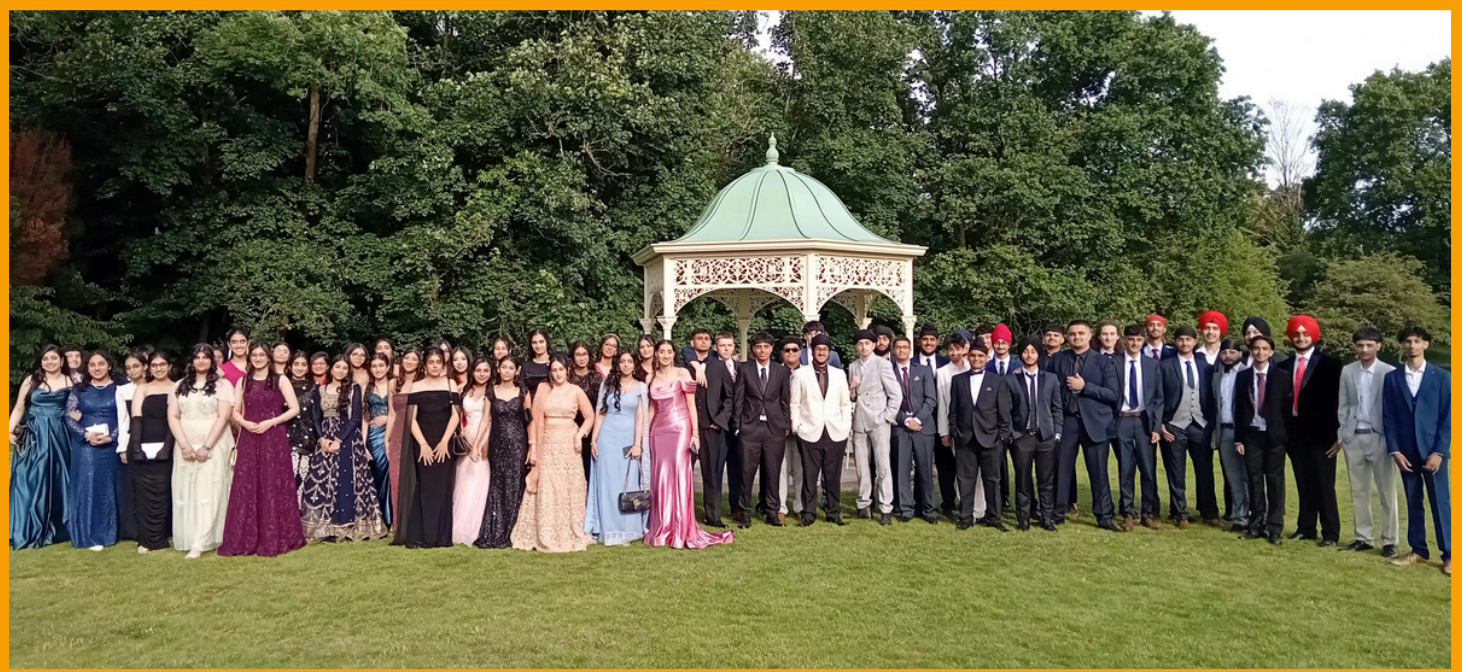


EVENTS AT PSA

Year 11 Prom

On Friday 21 June, we celebrated our amazing Year 11s at their prom!

After working so hard on their GCSE exams, it was a pleasure to see them enjoy themselves and make more memories with friends and teachers. We wish them all the very best for the future - we're incredibly proud of them and can't wait to see the amazing things they'll accomplish.



Sixth Form Taster Day

PSA had an outstanding Sixth Form Taster Day on Monday 1 July, offering a fantastic opportunity for staff to meet the students. It was wonderful to see them dressed in business wear and ready for learning. The event allowed students to explore their future academic options, attend lessons in subjects like Sociology, Mathematics, and Sciences, and participate in a careers talk on Post-16 and Post-18 opportunities. This taster day was crucial in helping students make informed decisions about their Year 12 courses and future educational paths. We are excited to see how these experiences shape their futures and look forward to supporting them every step of the way!



Chabeel Day

Chabeel Day commemorates the Shaheedi (martyrdom) of Guru Arjan Dev Ji, the Fifth Guru of the Sikhs. In 1606, Guru Arjan Dev Ji was tortured by being placed on a burning hot iron plate with hot sand poured over him because he refused to compromise his faith. Although burning alive, Guru Ji meditated and accepted God's Will as sweet.

Instead of mourning, Sikhs honour Guru Ji's sacrifice by cooling others and staying in Chardi-Kala (high spirits). To remember Guru Ji's Shaheedi and the lesson of acceptance that Guru Ji taught, Sikhs serve Chabeel - a free cold sweet drink given out in summer. Most often, a pink drink made from milk, water, and rosewater syrup is served. Our amazing canteen staff made and served this drink, and Sixth Form sevadaars distributed it to all students during their lunch break.

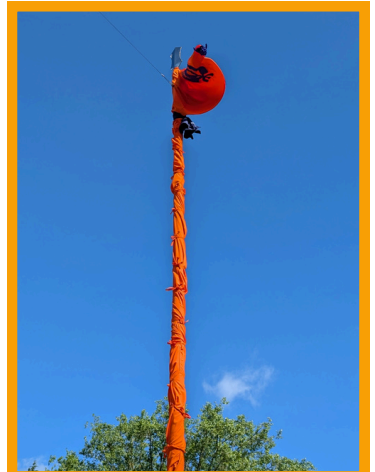
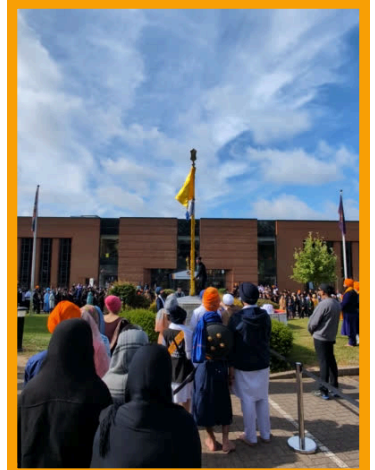
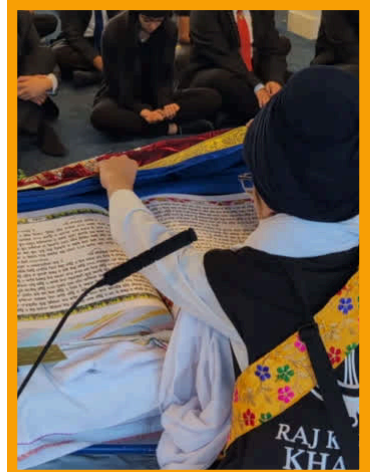


Commemoration of 1984

In January 2024, the students and staff of Pioneer Secondary Academy began a Sahej Paath - a meditative and reflective reading of the Sri Guru Granth Sahib from start to finish - in honour of the 40th anniversary of the 1984 Sikh genocide.

It has been four decades since the tragic events of 1984. To this day, many individuals continue to bear the emotional scars of the things they witnessed and the loved ones they lost.

On 27 June, the Sahej Paath was completed, and following this, the whole school gathered outside to conduct a ceremony of Nishan Sahib Seva, further enriching the day's significance. This was carried out by our Gurdwara Sevadaars, sixth formers, and staff. Our students performed a beautiful Kirtan throughout the morning, creating an atmosphere of peace and devotion.



PSA Sports Day

We're thrilled to share the success of PSA Sports Day 2024! Rain or shine (and we had both!), our students exhibited incredible spirit and energy throughout the event. Despite the weather taking a turn towards the end of the day, nothing could dampen their enthusiasm, making it a truly memorable day. Huge well done to all the students for taking part!



Louise Hunt - Beyond the Baseline project

Former Team GB Paralympian, Louise Hunt, carried out three "Beyond the Baseline" workshops for our Year 10 students. Using tennis as a powerful tool, Louise helped our students build essential skills like confidence, communication, and leadership.

For the final event, Louise supported our Year 10s in showcasing their hard work and passion by planning and delivering a fantastic tennis workshop to the Year 7 students.



Slough Sports Network rowing event at Dorney Lake

On Tuesday 18 June, nine of our students participated in the Slough Sports Network rowing event at Dorney Lake. They tackled the Concept2 rowing machines, mastering efficient techniques to prepare for rowing on the Olympic Lake.

Despite the challenges and muscular fatigue, our students showed incredible perseverance. After a brief rest, they faced the ultimate test: rowing on the lake. Synchronising with their teammates was tough, but our team emerged as the best on the water!

The day concluded with an intense 5000m interactive inter-school race, which helped our students develop excellent communication and teamwork skills.



PE Gold Mark Award

We are thrilled to announce that our school has achieved the School Games Gold Mark Award for the 2023/24 academic year!

The School Games Mark is a Government-led award scheme launched in 2012, facilitated by the Youth Sport Trust to reward schools for their commitment to the development of competition across their school and into the community, and we are delighted to have been recognised for our success.



As well as the above, our sporting highlights for the year include:

- The unbeaten girls' football team
- The girls' football team reaching the NFL Flag Football finals
- Volunteering with the Slough School Sports Network at inter-school events
- The Panathlon Challenge, led by Ms. Choudhary, where our team remained unbeaten in ten-pin bowling across West London

We are incredibly proud of our pupils for their dedication to all aspects of school sports. This includes not only the athletes but also the volunteers, leaders, and officials who helped make our competitions possible.

As part of our application for the award, we met criteria in the areas of participation, competition, workforce, and clubs. We are pleased that the hard work of everyone in our school community has been recognised and rewarded.

Thank you to all students, staff, and volunteers for your commitment and enthusiasm. Here's to another successful year in sports!

PSA Awards Evening 2024

Our annual School Awards Evening was a night of celebration and achievement. We honoured our amazing students for their hard work and successes. Parents, teachers, and students gathered together, proud and happy to celebrate the talents shown throughout the 2023/24 school year.

The evening began with our brilliant dhol players welcoming everyone to the event, and a speech from one of our Assistant Headteachers, creating an atmosphere of excitement for everyone.

Our Guest of Honour, Amrit Singh Mann, an esteemed journalist from Sky News and a former KPS and PSA student, delivered an inspiring speech. Giving a shoutout to his form teacher, Miss Day, Amrit spoke about the impact our school and teachers had on him. He shared how it made him proud of who he is, his culture, and religion, and encouraged him to become the first-ever turban-wearing presenter, inspiring young people across the UK to be proud of who they are. His words resonated deeply with everyone in the audience as he shared his journey from our school to his successful career, highlighting the limitless possibilities that lie ahead for our students.

The audience enjoyed wonderful performances from our students, including dances and musical acts, adding an extra layer of magic to the evening and showcasing the diverse talents within our school community.

As the event came to a close, the dhol players played again, providing a fun and celebratory farewell for our guests.

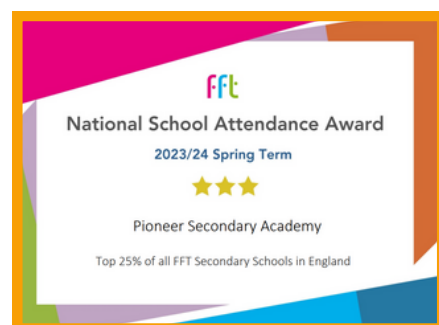
Congratulations to all our award winners! Your hard work has paid off. Keep making yourselves and your families proud!



FFT National Attendance Award for Spring 2023/24

We are incredibly proud to have won the FFT National Attendance Award for Spring 2023/24! This is an acknowledgment of the hard work and dedication of staff, pupils, parents and carers in achieving excellent attendance during the spring term.



















A big congratulations goes out to the Pioneer Secondary Academy community!



TEACHING AND LEARNING

What will your child learn?

Many parents have requested information on what their child will be learning about in the upcoming year and when. We'd like to remind families that our Curriculum for all subjects can be accessed via our Website. Simply click on the 'Curriculum' image from our homepage. Here you will be able to select any of your child's subjects and read about the topics that they will be learning about.

 English Year 7, 8, 9 Year 10, 11 Year 12, 13	 Maths Year 7, 8, 9 Year 10, 11 Year 12, 13	 Science Year 7, 8, 9 Year 10, 11 Year 12, 13 Bio Year 12, 13 Chem Year 12, 13 Applied	 Art Year 7, 8, 9 Year 10, 11	 Business Year 10, 11 Year 12, 13	 Citizenship Year 7, 8, 9 Year 10, 11
 Computing Year 7, 8, 9 Year 10, 11 Year 12, 13 (IT)	 Drama Year 7, 8, 9 Year 10, 11	 Design Technology Year 7, 8, 9	 Geography Year 7, 8, 9 Year 10, 11	 History Year 7, 8, 9 Year 10, 11	 Music Year 7, 8, 9 Year 10, 11
 Punjabi Year 7, 8, 9 Year 10, 11 Year 12, 13	 PE Year 7, 8, 9 Year 10, 11	 Psychology Year 12, 13	 RE Year 7, 8, 9 Year 10, 11	 RSHE Year 7, 8, 9 Year 10, 11	 Spanish Year 7, 8, 9 Year 10, 11

MERIT LEADERBOARD

Congratulations to the Tutor Groups with the most merits!



Year 7 winner



Year 8 winner



Year 9 winner



Year 10 winner

It's been another incredible year at PSA, and we're grateful to each member of our school community for making all the events and opportunities for our students possible.

Looking ahead to September 2024, we're excited to welcome new faces and create even more opportunities for our students to learn and thrive. We can't wait to see you back, refreshed and ready to embrace another fantastic year together.

Wishing you all a wonderful and restful summer break!



- Wednesday 4 September: Term starts for pupils in Year 7, 11 and 12 only
- Thursday 5 September: Term starts for all other Year Groups

For the latest news, follow us on socials:



@PSA_Bucks