

NEWSLETTER

PSA AUTUMN 2024



HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

I'm delighted to share some of the academic successes from the summer. We improved on every GCSE headline measure from last year, including our Attainment Score, the percentage of students gaining strong passes in English and Maths, and the number achieving the prestigious English Baccalaureate. On average, our students achieved at least a third of a grade higher in Maths, Computer Science, Music, and Panjabi compared to the national average. We're incredibly proud of their dedication, which led many to achieve multiple grade 9s across a wide range of subjects.

During the week of 23 September, we welcomed three Ofsted Inspectors for a full Section 5 Ofsted Inspection under the Education Act 2005, **making us one of the first schools nationally to be inspected this year!** The report will be sent to me soon, and I will share the findings and our official grades in key areas: Safeguarding, Quality of Education, Behaviour and Attitudes, Personal Development, Sixth Form Provision, and Leadership and Management.



This half-term also saw students engage in enriching experiences, from Restart a Heart Day, where they learned CPR, to Hello Yellow, supporting mental health awareness. We also hosted two inspiring guest speakers: Dr Holly Powell-Jones, who gave valuable advice on online safety, and Tommy Hatto, who spoke on colourism and body image.

Thank you to all for your continued support.
Enjoy reading!

KEY DATES

Mon 21 Oct	21 Oct to 25 Oct Autumn Half Term
Mon 28 Oct	CCF Trip The Royal Grammar School High Wycombe
Fri 1 Nov	Bandi Chhor / Diwali
Thu 14 Nov	Sixth Form Open Evening
Fri 15 Nov	Guru Nanak Gurburab
Mon 18 Nov	18 Nov to 29 Nov Year 11 and Year 13 Mock Exams
Wed 20 Nov	Parent Forum
Mon 2 Dec	2 Dec to 6 Dec Year 7, 8, 9, 10, 12 Assessments (in class)
Tue 17 Dec	Year 11 Parents Evening
Wed 18 Dec	Autumn Term ends 12.20pm
Thu 19 Dec	19 Dec to 3 Jan Christmas Holidays



PSA Year 7 Information Evening

We hosted our Year 7 Information Evening in September, welcoming parents and students to the start of an exciting journey at our school. It was a fantastic opportunity to meet our staff, explore the curriculum, and discuss the support available for our Year 7s as they settle in.

Thank you to everyone who came!



Our successful Year 6 Open Evening Event

We were thrilled to welcome a record number of families to our Year 6 Open Evening in September. The feedback from our guests has been overwhelmingly positive, with many expressing great interest in what our school has to offer.

Our students' behaviour was exemplary throughout the evening, as they guided visitors around the school and engaged with them in various classrooms. Guests were particularly impressed by the way our students interacted with subject teachers, who provided demonstrations in their areas of expertise. Our sevadaars created a positive atmosphere in the gurdwara as they performed a beautiful kirtan for everyone.

Both Headteacher talks had a full house, and it was wonderful to hear from Ms Kaur, as well as one of our Year 8 students, who stole the show. She shared, "PSA is way more than just a school, it's a community... There's a real sense of belonging." Her words truly captured the essence of our school.

Overall, it was a fantastic evening, and we are grateful to everyone who helped make it such a success!



Restart a Heart Day at PSA

On Wednesday 16 October, our students fully immersed themselves in CPR and resuscitation training as part of Restart a Heart Day.

Restart a Heart Day is an annual initiative that teaches vital CPR and resuscitation skills to help save lives in cardiac emergencies. It aims to raise awareness of the importance of early intervention during cardiac arrest and equip people with the confidence to perform life-saving techniques.

On this day, our students showed incredible focus and enthusiasm, and we were proud to see how seriously they took the training knowing that these skills could one day help them make a real difference.

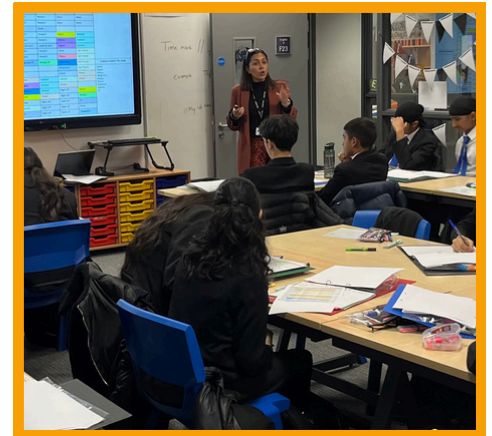


Year 11 Study Skills Session

To help our Year 11 students excel in their exams, our amazing teachers held a Study Skills Session on Monday 14 October. The session ran in the morning from 8am to 9:30am and featured three 30-minute workshops focused on essential study techniques:

1. Getting organised
2. How to revise
3. Effective note-taking

The students found the session incredibly useful and left feeling more confident for when they begin preparing for their exams!



Standing with those facing mental health challenges

On 10 October, our students dived into understanding the importance of resilience and wellbeing. Hello Yellow is a mental health awareness campaign run by the charity YoungMinds. It encourages people to wear yellow and show support for young people struggling with their mental health, promoting positive conversations and raising awareness of mental health issues in schools and communities.

To show their support, our students proudly wore yellow stickers, standing in solidarity with young people facing mental health challenges.



UPCOMING EVENTS

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Bandi Chhor Divas

We are excited to celebrate Bandi Chhor Divas on Friday 1 November, a significant occasion for the Sikh community. This celebration marks the day when Guru Hargobind Singh Ji, the sixth Guru of Sikhs, was released from imprisonment at Gwalior Fort, along with 52 Hindu kings, symbolising freedom and justice.

To honour the day, students and staff are invited to wear traditional dress, and there will be a variety of engaging workshops for students:

- Spiritual Assembly led by Ms Kaur, reflecting on the values of the day.
- Scouts Activities run by scout leader Nirmal Singh and his volunteers, where students will participate in team-building and problem-solving activities.
- Special Talk by Sunny Singh the first British South Asian referee in the Premier League, focusing on the power of the mind and resilience.
- Workshops from the award-winning Health Mentor and B'ham Hockey Club Chairman, Dr Jeevan Singh Chagger.

SPECIAL GUESTS AT PSA

We were pleased to welcome two inspiring speakers to our school in conjunction with the Global Equality Collective: Dr Holly Powell-Jones and Tommy Hatto!

Dr Holly, a digital criminologist, spoke to our students about online safety and grooming. She helped them understand the crucial green flags and red flags to watch for when navigating the online world. Her expert advice is helping them stay safe in today's increasingly complex digital space.

Students also had the opportunity to hear from Tommy Hatto: actor, model, and body image advocate. Tommy shared his insights on colourism, and his personal journey inspired students to think critically about identity and self-worth. He even took time to play a quick game of Uno with one of our students!

We're so grateful for these empowering talks, giving our students the tools they need to navigate both the online and offline world safely and confidently.





Victory for the Year 7 Football Team!

The Year 7 boys football team secured a fantastic 4-0 win against Langley Grammar School - **that's 9 games unbeaten** now for coach Mr Field!

Goals were scored by Jayden, Luke, and Harry. The Man of the Match was Jayden, for his outstanding defending and two brilliant goals from right back.

Year 8 Fencing Festival

On Monday 14 October, Langley Grammar School hosted the Year 8 Fencing Festival, organised by the Little Musketeers and the Slough School Sport Network. The event saw participation from 9 schools, and our 10 lucky students were thrilled to also take part.

The day began with an introduction to the basics of fencing, including key phrases and movements such as "Engarde," advance, retreat, and lunge. The students were quickly on their feet, moving through five different skill stations to refine their techniques.

After honing their skills, it was time for action! Our students eagerly competed against their peers, each ready to "go into battle" and showcase their newly acquired abilities. It was a fantastic day of learning, competition, and fun!

PSA Fencing Event

Our students had a brilliant time welcoming Year 1 and Year 2 students for an exciting Fencing event!

A huge well done to our Year 10 and 11 BTEC Sport students for their fantastic support and leadership throughout the day. It's always great to see our students working together and gaining valuable experience.

Hot Chocolate with the Headteacher!

A huge well done to Esha, Haranaya and Gurjaap in Year 7, who were invited to our first Hot Chocolate with the Headteacher event this year!

These PSA ambassadors consistently demonstrate our RAISE values in and out of the classroom and we are very proud of them.

All three were awarded over 15 merits over one week and were treated to a mini sweet banquet in recognition of their hard work. They also got to invite two friends along with them!

We look forward to many more Hot Chocolates this year!



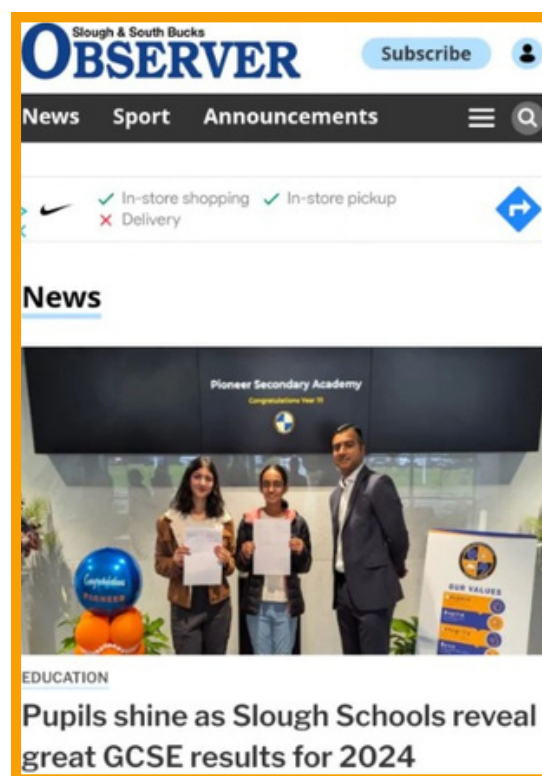
Summer exam success 2024

We're pleased to announce that our students did amazingly well in their GCSEs for the last academic year! They demonstrated outstanding dedication and academic achievement, exceeding our headline attainment measures from last year.

Mr Keshani praised their effort and dedication, saying "Today marks another stepping stone for a brilliant group of young people. Thanks to their hard work and the dedication of our entire staff, we can celebrate another significant milestone in our school's journey!"

A notable celebration was for Harleen who achieved a superb five grade 9s and four grade 8's! "I am so pleased and relieved!" she said, as she read out her results! Amritpal also achieved brilliant results: five grade 9's and four more grade 8-7s!

Dhiaan achieved eight grades at 9-7 and we are extremely proud of everyone at the school for attaining record-breaking results.



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about IN-GAME CHAT

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Video games are continuing to grow in popularity – including, of course, among children and young people – and the emergence of gaming communities has been accelerated by the inclusion of chat functionality across many different titles. While in-game chat isn't inherently a bad thing, it can create some concerns about online safety and the people that children might be interacting with.

DIFFERENT TYPES OF CHAT

There are a number of ways that gamers commonly chat with one another online. As the name would suggest, in-game chat happens within the game itself. There's also party chat: a group voice conversation that console users can have with anyone on the same platform. This tends to be more commonly used by players who already know each other. Finally, many gamers – especially on PC – will chat via a third-party app such as Discord.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

Whether it's text- or voice-based, in-game chat is frequently open to all players to use. Many games default to making it an opt-in function, but some don't: meaning a child could start seeing messages within the game from people they're playing with, regardless of whether they know those individuals or not. While most strangers won't necessarily have ill intent, there are some who may behave inappropriately when chatting to a child – intentionally or otherwise.

DANGER OF GROOMING

It's been reported that some young gamers have encountered older players online who pretend to be a lower age to manipulate children, sending gifts in exchange for chatting and sending photos. Just as on any messaging platform, it's good to advise young people to avoid speaking to strangers; emphasise that they shouldn't accept gifts from anyone online that they don't know.

BULLYING AND ABUSE

While some in-game chat can turn toxic because of how a match plays out, others turn that way because of people who engage in trolling – in essence, behaving in an offensive and abusive way simply to cause pain or get a rise out of whoever they're talking to. These 'trolls' often lean on racial slurs, anti-LGBT sentiment and other hateful rhetoric; they normally feel most confident preying on younger, more impressionable gamers.

POTENTIAL FOR PRIVATE CHAT

If a player would like a re-match with a stranger after meeting them in the game, they can send a friend request, or use the party chat together in the future. For the most part, this is harmless – but it might lead to messages being exchanged in private. This could then escalate to the sharing of private information, and potentially attempts to manipulate or scam younger players.

COMPETITIVE ATMOSPHERE

Certain games are very competitive, and players can sometimes get upset if they feel a teammate is underperforming, an opponent won unfairly, or they're just a bad loser. This can lead to unpleasant messages that stray away from playful 'trash talk' and wander into the territory of bullying. Some players have been known to get incredibly abusive in situations like this, and the impact of this on a young gamer's emotional wellbeing could be severe.

Advice for Parents & Educators

LOCK-DOWN IN-GAME CHAT

In-game chat can often be disabled in the game's settings. This allows children to play without risk of contact from strangers – but it will need to be done in each individual game. Text chat appears in the corner of the screen in many titles, so it's normally easy to take a quick glance and see what's being said. With voice chat, explain to children what behaviour is inappropriate, so they can spot the dangers themselves.

REPORT POTENTIAL OFFENDERS

Most games offer a robust means of reporting other players, so you can flag an account as potentially harmful. This normally leads to the account not being matched with yours in the future and, if that person's conduct breaks any of the game's rules, they may be banned from playing entirely. This is done within the game itself, so each title has a slightly different process, but these tend to be designed for simplicity.

CONSIDER OTHER CHAT OPTIONS

If a child wants to play with people they know, consider using party chat or a third-party service like Discord. This allows everyone involved to chat on a private server and even enjoy each other's company while playing different games. It's also far more secure, as anyone looking to join will need to request and be granted access – normally by whoever is hosting the chat.

COMMUNICATION IS KEY

Make sure children understand the differences between being competitive and being abusive. Talk about what constitutes unusual or inappropriate behaviour from strangers online. Be clear that if anything ever concerns or worries them, they should tell a trusted adult as soon as possible. Empower children to identify the risks of in-game chat for themselves and reassure them they won't get in trouble for seeking help if anything goes wrong.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is the Editor in Chief of GGRecon and has been working in the games media industry for five years. He's also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his work has been published at sites including IGN, TechRadar, and plenty more.



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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



Year 11 winner

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