

NEWSLETTER

PSA AUTUMN 2025



HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

As we come to the end of a busy and successful autumn term, I would like to express how incredibly proud I am of our students and staff. From the success of our Open Evenings to the confidence and maturity shown by our student ambassadors, this term has truly highlighted the strength of our school community. Our students have embraced a wide range of opportunities with enthusiasm, from life saving CPR training and Model United Nations preparation to university visits and contributions to national mental health research, representing the school with pride throughout.

Academically, our Year 11 and Year 13 mock examinations were highly successful, with students approaching them with confidence and resilience. Teachers continue to work tirelessly to close knowledge gaps and extend learning, ensuring every young person is supported to achieve their very best. Alongside this, our celebrations of Bandi Chhor Divas, Guru Nanak Dev Ji's Gurpurab, and the Shaheedi Anniversary of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji offered powerful moments of reflection, reminding us of the enduring values of courage, compassion, and service.

As we move into the new term, we would like to share a few staffing updates. We say farewell to Dr Hussain and thank her for her valued contribution to the science team, while warmly welcoming Dr Taj Nandra, who has already made a strong start. We are also delighted to welcome back Mrs Patel from maternity leave this January. Finally, I would like to thank our parents and carers for your continued support. Together, our strength as a community ensures the very best for our children. We look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 5 January.

KEY DATES

Mon 22 Dec	22 December to 2 January - Christmas Holidays
Mon 5 Jan	All Students return
Thu 15 Jan	Year 7 Parents Evening
Mon 19 Jan	Year 9 Options Assemblies begin
Thu 22 Jan	Sixth Form Application close
Fri 23 Jan	Kirtan Evening (tbc)
Thu 29 Jan	Year 9 Immunisations
Fri 30 Jan	Year 9 Options Information released online

EVENTS AT PSA

Year 7 Open Evening

We were delighted to welcome over 300 guests to our Year 7 Open Evening - our biggest turnout to date. Parents described PSA as an “extraordinary school” where their child “will flourish.”

The real stars of the night were our wonderful student ambassadors, who represented our school values with pride and enthusiasm. Their maturity, kindness, and confidence left a lasting impression on all our visitors. It was a true celebration of everything that makes our community so special.



Sixth Form Open Evening

Our recent Sixth Form Open Evening was another great success.

It was fantastic to see so many of our young people eager to continue their studies with us, exploring our range of A-level and BTEC options.

We're looking forward to welcoming our next cohort of Year 12 students as they take the next step in their journey at PSA.



Macmillan Cake Sale

Our annual Macmillan cake sale was another great success, raising an impressive £422.15 for Macmillan Cancer Support. Thank you to everyone who baked, donated, and bought a treat, your kindness will help support families affected by cancer.



Hello Yellow

To mark World Mental Health Day, students and staff wore yellow badges to raise awareness and show support for young people's mental health. The initiative was a reminder that no one is ever alone and that small acts of kindness can make a big difference.



Restart a Heart Day

On Restart a Heart Day, more than 300 students took part in CPR and resuscitation training. The sessions, led by our trained staff and supported by St John Ambulance, gave students vital life-saving skills and confidence to act in an emergency. We were proud to see how engaged and committed they were during the training.



PSA VISITS...

BootStRaP research event

The BootStRaP Study programme – an opportunity to support and inspire students in their academic development.

Friday 28 November, members of our Student Council had the exciting opportunity to attend a special event at the University of Hertfordshire, focused on mental health and wellbeing. We were proud to be one of only six schools invited to take part in this innovative study.

During the day, students met with lead mental-health practitioners and researchers as well as the lead investigator Professor Naomi Fineberg who are exploring the relationship between young people's phone usage and their overall mental wellbeing. One of the key questions being investigated is whether young people are able to put down their phones of their own accord, and what this might reveal about healthy digital habits.

The practitioners also shared early ideas for a new app designed to monitor and understand the links between screen time and mental health, with the aim of supporting young people in making positive, informed choices about their device use.

Our students contributed thoughtful insights, asked brilliant questions, and represented the school exceptionally well. It was a fabulous and inspiring day, giving our Student Council the chance to shape real research that could impact young people nationwide.

We look forward to seeing how the study develops and to taking part in the next stages of this important project.

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It was a very informative trip and I can see the benefits of the study. It made me think more about my university choices as well having visited the campus

- Harpal, Year 10



Misbourne School for the first Model United Nations Preparation Day

Our students took part in the first Model United Nations (MUN) Preparation Day at Misbourne School, and what an incredible start to their MUN journey. Their enthusiasm, professionalism, and thoughtful engagement with complex global issues were truly impressive. Each student represented PSA with confidence and maturity, showcasing excellent debating skills, teamwork, and a real passion for international affairs.

This was only the beginning, and we're so proud of how they've started. We can't wait to see their progress as they continue preparing for the full conference ahead.

PSA CELEBRATES...

Bandi Chhor Divas

Students and staff came together to celebrate Bandi Chhor Divas — a day symbolising freedom, justice, and compassion.

We were honoured to welcome our former student and Sky News journalist, Amrit Singh Mann, who shared an inspiring talk about the meaning of the day and how its message of courage and righteousness continues to guide us. His quote stuck with the entire school community: "We can light fireworks, we can light divas, but let's also light a diva of compassion within us all."

Our Gurdwara sevadaars led beautiful Kirtan sessions, and the celebrations concluded with delicious refreshments organised by our canteen team. Special thanks to Sunny Gill for donating sweets enjoyed by all.

It was a thoughtful and uplifting day that reminded everyone of the importance of standing up for what is right and carrying those values into everyday life.



Guru Nanak Dev Ji's Gurpurab

PSA marked Guru Nanak Dev Ji's Gurpurab with a day full of reflection, learning, and community spirit.

Our Sixth Form students began the day with Nishan Sahib Seva and a beautiful Kirtan that brought calm and positivity across the school. We were honoured to welcome Manny Singh, who encouraged students to "challenge the darkness" through truth, compassion, and service.

Scout Leader Nirmal Singh and his team led teamwork and problem-solving workshops inspired by Guru Ji's teachings: Naam Japna, Kirat Karni, and Vand Chakna. The day concluded with a Langar prepared by our canteen staff and served by Sixth Formers, rounding off a truly meaningful celebration.



350th Shaheedi Anniversary of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji

We were blessed to mark the 350th Shaheedi Anniversary of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji.

Bhai Karanvir Singh Attwal joined us to share the story of the Guru's supreme sacrifice and the profound meaning of Salok Mahalla 9. His message of courage and equality left a deep impression on everyone present.

It was a powerful reminder of the Guru's enduring legacy. One that continues to inspire strength, faith, and integrity in generations to come.



COMMUNITY

Sponsored walk for Khalsa Aid

Staff from PSA and KPS joined forces this term for a 10K sponsored walk through Black Park in support of families affected by the floods in Punjab.

Thanks to your generosity, nearly £10,000 was raised - an incredible show of community spirit. The funds have gone directly to Khalsa Aid to support those most in need.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who donated, shared, and supported our efforts.



Litter pick

A huge thank you to all the students, staff, and parents who took part in our community litter pick this term.

Your time and effort helped keep our local area clean, safe, and welcoming - a perfect example of our school value of Seva (selfless service) in action. Together, we continue to make a real difference beyond the school gates.



PSA ACHIEVEMENTS

Former student Mikael Hussain's debut pro fight

We're incredibly proud of former PSA student, Mikael Hussain, who made an impressive professional boxing debut in Dubai - winning by a third-round stoppage.

Congratulations, Mikael! What a fantastic achievement.



Work experience

Priya, a Year 11 student, is on an alternative programme which allowed her to attend work experience one day a week at Odds Farm for nearly 3 months.

Priya said: "The work helped me build strength, resilience, and confidence. The people were kind, the animals were cute, and the jobs were fun. Everyone worked together to get things done."



Boccia success

On Monday 24 November, Mrs Yousofian accompanied eight students to the Slough Schools Boccia Competition. It was a fantastic day of teamwork and sportsmanship, with our students finishing second overall - narrowly missing out on first place to Langley Grammar School. Well done to all who took part!



Hot Chocolate with the Headteacher

Hats off to our outstanding students who went above and beyond, earning multiple merits in a week! To celebrate, they got together in the canteen to have hot chocolate and some freshly baked cookies (thanks to our wonderful canteen staff!) with our Headteacher, Mr Keshani.



SEVA

Nishkam SWAT food bank

A huge thank you to everyone who donated to support the Nishkam SWAT Food Bank!

This act of Seva (which means selfless service, and is one of our RAISE values) reflects the kindness and strong sense of community at PSA that we are so proud of. The generosity of students, staff, and families has been truly overwhelming and will make a real difference to individuals and families in need.



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

TOYS THAT LISTEN AND LEARN

When a toy uses AI, it collects data such as voice recordings, interactions, and background sounds. This information is sent to remote servers, where it is analysed to improve responses. Your child's voice becomes training data, which may be stored indefinitely or shared with third parties.

WEAK SECURITY PROTECTIONS

Some AI toys have poor password protection or open network connections. Others may have microphones or cameras that stay on, even when the toy appears to be off. This can lead to recordings being made without your knowledge, including conversations unrelated to play.

ARTIFICIAL VOICES, REAL INFLUENCE

For very young children, an AI companion may become one of the first voices they interact with regularly. How that voice shows humour, empathy, or authority can shape how a child learns to communicate. If the model is artificial, then part of what is learned is artificial as well.

PRESSURE TO KEEP ENGAGING

Some toys reward repeated use or track engagement, encouraging children to interact more. When children compare how their toys perform, it creates pressure to play more often. This increases the amount of data collected and can make learning feel like competition.

MARKETING THROUGH PLAY

Toys that learn a child's preferences may feed that data into future advertising. A toy that knows a child's favourite colour or hobby could help a company design more targeted marketing to that child and their family.

PLAYTIME AS DATA TRAINING

The information collected from children helps train AI systems. Their voice, emotional responses, and behaviour shape how machines 'understand' people. Play becomes part of a much larger system that influences how future technologies behave.

Advice for Parents & Educators

START WITH A CONVERSATION

Talk to young people. Explain that some toys learn from what they say and do. Help them understand that even friendly technology should have boundaries, and to ask questions about it. Curiosity is healthy, blind trust is not.

SET LIMITS ON USE

Turn off Wi-Fi or Bluetooth when the toy is not in use. Check for updates regularly, as they can change privacy or safety settings. Treat connected toys like any smart device; they should be monitored, updated, and switched off when not in use.

MODEL DIGITAL AWARENESS

Children learn from adults. If they see you checking privacy settings, reading terms, and talking openly about online safety, they are more likely to do the same. Show them how to question technology in a healthy way.

RESEARCH BEFORE YOU BUY

Look for toys that work offline or store data locally. Check for a free or demo version so you can test how it behaves. Read privacy policies to understand what data is collected, where it goes, and whether it's shared with others.

REVIEW PRIVACY SETTINGS

Find out where the data is stored and who has access to it. Some companies sell or share data with advertisers. If the toy connects through an app, check what it requests access to and limit those permissions whenever possible.

BALANCE AI WITH REAL PLAY

AI toys can be fun and creative, but they are not a replacement for real human interaction. Encourage time away from technology with activities that foster emotional and social development. Use AI toys to support learning, not define it.

Meet Our Expert

Clara Hawking is Executive Director of Kompass Education. She advises governments, school trusts, and global organisations on AI governance and safeguarding, helping schools and families understand how technology shapes learning, wellbeing, and the digital future of children.



The National College

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