

KHALSA SECONDARY ACADEMY NEWS

January 2019



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Engineering Masterclasses

University and industry partnerships

Careers Fair

Sixth Form success



Welcome from the Principal



I am delighted to welcome you to the second edition of Khalsa Secondary Academy News.

The first term of this academic year has been hugely successful, with an unprecedented number of **engaging and inspiring events** taking place across the academy. In this edition of the magazine you will read about some of the achievements of our talented and committed students, as well as looking forward to what 2019 has in store for KSA.

Plans are in place to further develop the rounded education our students receive as we continue to provide them with the platform to succeed in modern Britain. With last summer's **outstanding academic performance** recently finalised, positioning us as one of the top schools in our area, we are tirelessly organising extra-curricular experiences to achieve this vision.

As you will see, last term's **Careers Fair** is a perfect example of how we are helping students to use their exemplary exam results to make the most of the possibilities that await them. I am delighted that this event is a permanent fixture in our calendar and a source of inspiration for our maturing young adults.

Maximising students' future prospects saw us recently add our new **Sixth Form**, providing them with a consistent education that delivers opportunities and experiences to suit their needs. It is remarkable how quickly it has become a vibrant and integrated part of the academy, with Sixth Formers already acting as mentors for younger students.

We are able to innovate and develop like this thanks to our membership of a thriving Multi Academy Trust. We learn from and share with each other so that students receive the education they deserve. I'm pleased that we have this chance to showcase some of the activities taking place in our sister academies that will help shape KSA's future.

I hope you enjoy this insight into our academy and its students, and should you wish to receive more information or visit for yourself please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Mrs Piesse, Principal

"Last summer's outstanding academic performance positions us as one of the top schools in our area"

ENRICHING OUR STUDENT EXPERIENCE

KSA is not just about what students learn in the classroom – the experiences they have here, help to create well-rounded individuals. With this in mind, our enrichment programme includes an exceptional array of opportunities designed to prepare students for their futures and encourage their participation in as many learning experiences as possible.



Working in Partnership with Teikyo School

KSA believe in building relationships with local, national and international partners for the benefit of our students and school community. Before Christmas, we took part in a hugely successful community event with Teikyo School - an International School in Wexham for Japanese students in the UK.

During their visit, our Year 10 ambassadors worked with the Teikyo students to talk about environmental issues and to discuss what we can do as school communities to make schools greener and reduce plastic waste. It was great to see our students interacting so well with our Japanese visitors and learn about life in Japan. Students also had the chance to learn some words from the Japanese language and discussed aspects of Japanese culture with the visitors.

We look forward to furthering this partnership with more visits like this in 2019.

Enrichment Week 2019: Trip to Walt Disney Studios



We are in the process of putting together exciting and inspirational activities for 2019's Enrichment Week, taking place at the end of the summer term. The aim of the week is to provide KSA students with the experiences to broaden their horizons and to help create well-rounded individuals.

This year, for the first time, Enrichment Week will include a tour to Disneyland Paris in July.

The trip, following on from our successful visit to New York in 2017, is being organised by the English and Drama departments and will be available to 30 students. We are working with NST travel, the UK's leading educational travel company for schools with more than 50 years' experience. The organisation will work closely with us to plan the trip to ensure every participant will get the very best learning experience whilst away.

The five-day experience will include a full day's admission to the Disneyland theme park, Illuminations firework display, admission to the Walt Disney Studios theme park, and a coach trip into Paris to see the city's famous landmarks, including the Eiffel Tower and Notre Dame cathedral.



Lest We Forget

KSA marked the 100th anniversary of the end of WW1 with a series of special assemblies during which extracts from a wide range of WW1 poets were heard and clips from Peter Jackson's new film documentary, 'They Shall Not Grow Old', were screened. KSA students also sold poppies, wristbands and special commemorative stationery on behalf of the British Legion.

In addition to the wide range of activities that took place within the school, our students visited Stoke Poges Primary and Godolphin Junior, to run World War Poetry and Creative Writing Workshops. We are passionate about working together with our local primary schools to boost opportunities for the young people in the local area and to support the transition from primary to secondary school.

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STEAM airboat challenge

Science and technology have become a major part of society and our individual lives. It has changed the way we live and has opened up new possibilities for jobs and careers of the future.

Our Year 7 students spent an exciting half day engaged in the airboat challenge where the need for an efficient airboat was established and then designed. Costs were considered for raw materials which were then purchased before students manufactured the airboats, using a wide range of materials and equipment, including hot wire cutters and heated glue guns.

As well as giving participants a chance to develop hands-on experience, it also provided the opportunity for leadership development, teamwork and the distribution and delegation of roles. The first event was a great success and we look forward to many more such events during the course of the year and in the years to come.

Engineering masterclasses with The Royal Institution

Students from KSA have been working closely with The Royal Institution as part of our partnership with Brunel University. Here are a few of the highlights:

- KSA students with an interest in engineering were treated to an inspiring tour and exhibition at Brunel University. As well as a tour, opportunities included presentations of plans for the new campus, meeting lecturers, academics and current students, and gaining hands-on experience in the university laboratories.
- A group of Year 9 students are currently taking part in The Royal Institution Engineering Masterclasses. These aim to open the eyes of young people to the excitement, beauty and value of mathematics, engineering and computer science, and in turn inspire the next generation.

- All Year 7, 8 and 9 students have been involved in the Robocode project, in association with The Royal Academy of Engineering. Lesley Warren and her team of ambassadors came into school to deliver an exciting programme of workshops. The aim of the sessions was to introduce students to computer coding, encourage engineering thinking and show students the importance of maths and science at school.

Further sessions for all KSA students to visit Brunel University are planned for 2019, as we look to make the most of this exciting and hugely beneficial partnership.



We promise to prepare our students for an exciting world of opportunities whether their ambitions are to go to university, follow an apprenticeship scheme or find professional placements. There is a wealth of exciting prospects at KSA. We offer a diverse curriculum complemented by unrivalled initiatives and programmes to provide our students with the skills, knowledge and experiences to enable them to make informed choices in the future.



What career? Which university?

In the Autumn Term, Year 11 and 12 students had access to our enormously popular Careers Fair which aimed to provide a platform to explore future opportunities beyond school.

The event provided practical information from higher education institutions, as well as commercial organisations, giving our students a chance to speak one-to-one with company representatives. Around 50 prestigious companies attended the event, including: AAT, Arcadia, Coca-Cola, Deloitte, J.P. Morgan, Murphy, Network Rail, Royal Navy, Unilever, Warner Bros, and many more.

There were over 53 universities and course providers in attendance, including representatives from Russel Group universities, Access to Music, Brunel University London, Loughborough University, UCFB, The University of Law and University of Liverpool.

As well as one-to-one conversations during the exhibition, students had access to:

- The Careers' Theatre – To hear what it's like to work at some of the UK's top companies through lectures and workshops.
- Apprentice Panel Q&A – Students could put questions to people currently on apprenticeship schemes at a panel Q&A session.
- University Theatre – Compare and contrast a range of universities, get an overview of what they have to offer and why they might be a good fit.
- Student Panel Q&A – Put questions to current students at a panel Q&A session.

"The people speaking for UCFB are very inspirational and gave good tips for the future which I will find useful."

"The University of Leicester have so many course options related to my career which helped me to think about my options."

Outstanding exam results confirmed

In our last edition of the magazine we covered the phenomenal achievements of our GCSE students in their provisional results. With those grades now confirmed, here's a recap of our exceptional 2018 results:

The academy achieved a Progress 8 score of +0.47 which is well above the expected national averages.

Overall 74% of students achieved a 9–4 grade in five subjects including English and Maths.

28.8% of students achieved the very top grades of 7–9 in Mathematics.

The academy achieved an amazing 42.4% in the English Baccalaureate (EBacc).

OUR TOP PERFORMERS

Gurleen Kaur Singh joined the school in Year 9, unable to speak any English. She has now received outstanding GCSE results: 10 grades at 7–9.

Rasneet Devsi, who was extremely proud of his 7s and A grades said: "I want to be a cardiothoracic surgeon and with the great facilities and support from my teachers at KSA, I know that I can achieve this."

KSA Sixth Form hits the ground running

In the last edition of the magazine, we introduced you to our head of Sixth Form. Here we take a look at how our pioneering Sixth Form students have excelled since joining us in September.

In 2018, KSA opened the door for the first time to our brand new Sixth Form. The turn of the year provides us with the perfect opportunity to reflect on what has been a hugely successful first term. The new students have settled well into their studies and are beginning to explore the diverse range of opportunities open to them.

The new academic year began with two days of induction and team building competitions. Students were encouraged to think creatively and work collaboratively – culminating with a fun-packed day out to Go Ape in Black Park.

As the year progressed students have applied themselves to their studies and begun to fully explore their chosen subjects and potential career paths. To support this, students attended two very informative careers and university days at 'What Careers' and 'What Uni Live', as well as an insight day at Brunel University. Feedback was extremely positive and the informative sessions opened students' eyes to the possibilities open to them.

After half term our students really came into their own with a number of them picking up additional MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses), signing up to the Duke of Edinburgh Award, attending open days and public lectures, as well as leading sporting events at our local primary schools.

Four students who deserve a special mention are:

- **Amritpal** who has just completed his Level 2 FA coaching qualification
- **Jeneev** who has achieved a place on the prestigious 'Reading Scholars' programme at Reading University
- **Navdeep** and **Monisha** who have both secured long term volunteering placements at Wexham Park hospital in preparation for their medical school applications next October.

KSA Sixth Form students have become integrated and engaged with the full school community and we look forward to tracking their progress throughout their post-16 studies.



SPOTLIGHT ON KSA SIXTH FORMERS

"My first term at sixth form has been very different to secondary school – you have to be much more independent, but I know this is to ensure I am prepared for life at university, where I aspire to study Law and Criminology." **Sharon**

"My first term has been packed full of information about a range of topics, ranging from careers advice to subject knowledge. It has given me a sense of direction of what I want to do in life. I would like to study Business Management at a good university before landing a prestigious job as a Business Development Manager." **Amritpal**

"I have loved getting involved in a range of initiatives outside of the classroom, such as mentoring younger students who need extra help, and volunteering to support Year 7 science lessons. This has helped me to build leadership, management and mentoring qualities that will serve me well in my future career. I have also recently started volunteering at a local hospital to add to my work experience.

I'd like to study Psychology at university before specialising in Forensic Psychology. For my career, I would like to work with the police in the forensics department, analysing why people commit crimes." **Harmehar**

"I am currently studying Maths, Business and Sociology. All have challenging content but the network of supportive teaching staff who offer a wealth of advice and support, make it easier to understand and enjoy! In the future I aspire to go to university to study Accounting." **Manpreet**

"I am enjoying studying Sociology, ICT and Business. One great thing about KSA Sixth Form is the fact that classes are small, allowing teachers to give more help to each student. Sociology is my favourite subject as it is relevant to what I'd like to do as a career." **Simran**



Good news from across the Trust

The Second Annual KAT Conference

Our second KAT conference was held at the brand new facilities of The Khalsa Academy Wolverhampton. The theme of the conference was values based education and exploration of our proposed trust values, and there were awards for staff from across all our member academies.

PROJECT KENYA

One of the fundamental values of KAT and its academies is Seva, or Community Service. Last year the Trust started working with The Education Development Trust (EDT) which runs free schools in the UK and also operates in Kenya.

The Education Development Trust is helping to transform the lives of some 124,000 girls in Kenya by ensuring not only that they are able to go to school, but that they can then stay in school to receive a good quality education.

KAT is supporting this initiative by providing educational leadership as well as supporting opportunities for Seva for some of the poorest families in Kenya. Three KAT members of staff recently visited Valley View Primary School, serving the slum area in Nairobi; Buruburu Girls' School, an independent school in a more affluent area; and the CEMASTEIA centre, the national centre for the promotion of STEM education in Kenya and other African countries.



GRAND OPENING OF THE NEW ATAM ACADEMY BUILDING

Atam Academy celebrated their grand opening ceremony on 20th September 2018. Prayers, martial arts displays and the raising of a flag marked the official opening of Atam Academy's state-of-the-art new building, inspired by the famed Sikh Golden Temple in Amritsar, India.

Atam Academy is an all-through academy whose primary provision opened in 2016. We are looking forward to welcome our first Year 7 cohort this September, who will have the chance to be the leaders of our academy.

An all-through education at Atam Academy will provide many opportunities to boost academic and personal development for all students through shared specialisms and resources, access to a wide range of out-of-school activities and leadership opportunities that will boost their CVs and university applications.

KAT Director receives Outstanding Contribution to Education award

The Khalsa Academies Trust is delighted to announce that Director of Education, Denise Shepherd, received a special recognition award for her outstanding contribution to Education at the All Party Parliamentary Panjab Group Gurmurbh celebrations in the Houses of Parliament. Ms Shephard has been a leader in Education for over 30 years and joined the Khalsa Academies Trust in 2016.

