

KHALSA SECONDARY ACADEMY NEWS

Autumn 2018

OPEN
EVENING:
TUESDAY
25 SEPT



What's inside?

Outstanding exam success

Transition at KSA

60 seconds with Head of Sixth Form

Work experience and careers



Welcome from the **Principal**



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

It is with great pride that I share with you the many success stories from the summer term, whilst also looking ahead to KSA's exciting future. This inaugural magazine also gives me the chance to thank students, parents, staff and our wider community for their time and contributions over the last academic year – a year in which we celebrated being in the top 30 schools in the country for the level of progress made by students.

I would also like to congratulate our recent GCSE and A Level graduates on an outstanding set of results. I would like to congratulate our recent GCSE graduates and welcome them as our first ever Sixth Form cohort. Their collective success continues to keep KSA as one of the highest performing state schools in the country, and allows us to set the bar high for all of those students that will follow them in the years to come.

We were delighted to open our **new science facilities and state-of-the-art technology rooms** at the end of last term. This will allow our students to benefit from the very best education and achieve their potential in key STEM subjects.

We understand that starting a new secondary school can be intimidating, which is why at KSA we have a **transition programme** to make the process of moving from primary enjoyable for parents and students alike. Keep reading to see the exciting experiences that this year's new starters have enjoyed since they first met us in March. This might seem like a long time ago but it's a fantastic way of making sure everyone has everything they need ahead of their first day!

We are delighted to be welcoming our **first group of Year 12 students** to KSA this year. It has long been an ambition of ours to extend our outstanding learning environment to post-16, and I look forward to helping them to embed themselves into our community, as well as seeing them act as pioneers and role models for KSA's younger students. I am sure you will enjoy reading our 60 seconds with the Head of Sixth Form feature on page 5.

We are always looking to build enterprise and entrepreneurial skills, and our prestigious links and varied **partnerships with local businesses and universities** allow us to provide the very best experiences for all our students.

I am exceptionally proud of where the Academy is heading and the many success stories we enjoyed last year, I hope you enjoy reading our latest news. Should you wish to find out more, please don't hesitate to get in contact with us and arrange a visit.

"We develop students who are ready to succeed in whatever they choose to do next."

Mrs Piesse, Principal



Exam success

This August staff and students came together to celebrate the phenomenal results enjoyed by our GCSE students. The percentage of students achieving the top grades remains impressive, including 29% of students securing the very top grades of 7-9 in Mathematics.

We are particularly proud of the amazing progress made by students since joining the school, the new Progress 8 score which measures the progress made by students in their 8 best GCSEs would place the school amongst the top performing schools nationally.

There have been fantastic results across the curriculum, but particular highlights include:

Physics: 50% achieved 7-9 (A*-A) grades

Biology: 38% achieved 7-9

Chemistry: 38% achieved 7-9

Punjabi: 36% achieved 7-9

Head of Key Stage 4, Mr Roopra, commented: "Congratulations to the class of 2018 in securing another set of outstanding results. I am extremely proud of what our students have achieved, the results are a testament of their determination, hard work and commitment, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank staff for their ongoing dedication to our students' achievements. We look forward to welcoming many of them back to the Sixth Form in September where we are sure they will continue their academic success."

KSA High Fliers

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. She intends to stay at Khalsa Secondary Academy Sixth Form.

Rasneet Devsi, who was incredibly 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".

Annika Dhir was celebrating exceptional grades today, having achieved; four grade 8s and 2 As.

Karanvir Tatla has made incredible progress throughout the year, with his determination paying dividends as he opened an envelope that contained one 9, one 8 and two grade 7s. We are exceptionally proud of his hard work and look forward to welcoming him back to our Sixth Form in September to repeat his successes.

Amritpal Maan was beaming as he read through his results and said "the teachers have helped support and motivate me. I can't wait to join the Sixth Form".

Collaboration and opportunities with our local Primary schools



At Khalsa Secondary Academy, we are passionate about building relationships with our partner primary schools. We have developed an extensive programme that includes a number of engaging activities and booster sessions, devised and delivered by our staff and students from across the Khalsa Academies Trust. We are looking forward to working together with our local primary schools this academic year to boost opportunities for the young people in our local area, and continue to support transition from primary to secondary school.

Starting Life at KSA

As we welcome our new Year 7 students, we reflect on our excellent transition programme that ensured every child spent as much time with us as possible before they started this September.

Upon receiving an offer to join us in March, every Year 6 pupil and their parents or carers were invited to our Friendship Afternoon. It was a fantastic opportunity for them to meet their peers and teachers, and to get to know their new academy.

This kicked off a series of events across the summer term, introducing everyone to the school so they felt not just comfortable, but excited about joining KSA. From Induction Day, The Great Khalsa Bake Off and Maths Masterclasses, pupils took part in an array of exciting activities to give them a taste of life at KSA.

Your journey starts at our Open Evening

On Tuesday 25th September we are inviting prospective pupils and their families to our open evening. Join us between 6 and 7.30pm to find out everything you need to know about KSA.

You will have the opportunity to hear from our Principal at 6.15pm and be taken on a guided tour by our students so you they can see first-hand the depth and variety of our student experience.

What our new students had to say:

"Today was an amazing day because I made so many friends and I met some really nice teachers. I think this will be an amazing school for me." **Gurleen, Khalsa Primary School**

"I really liked learning about Shakespeare and I was proud I answered a GCSE style question about Macbeth. My favourite subject was Science as I loved making the brain hat. It was fun. I am really looking forward to going to school at KSA." **Gurjeewan, Trevelyan Middle School, Windsor**

"As I entered KSA today, I felt nervous but as we went on, the day quickly became exciting. The loveliest thing for me was learning new things, making new friends and creating lots of things." **Gurmehar**

"KSA is a wonderful school that has taught me a lot already! I have thoroughly enjoyed learning about the different political parties with Miss Day. She is a very kind, caring, funny and inspirational teacher. Thank you for making this day amazing! My adventure has only just begun." **Anaiya, Wrasbury Primary School**

AN INSIGHT INTO OUR PIONEERING NEW SIXTH FORM

This year is an exciting time for KSA as we open the doors of our new Sixth Form to Year 12 students. They will benefit from our commitment to academic success, including brand-new facilities, high quality guidance and support, extensive partnerships with businesses and universities, and many opportunities to develop skills and knowledge that go beyond academia.



60 Seconds with our Head of Sixth Form

What will the new Sixth Form at KSA be like?

The staff and I can't wait to support students on their two-year journey towards university, apprenticeships and employment. KSA Sixth Form will soon have its own brand new, state-of-the-art facility, boasting dedicated Sixth Form classrooms and recreational spaces. Students will be taught in small class sizes and will be supported by teachers who know them well and know how they learn best.

What will you bring to the Sixth Form?

The team and I will provide students with the very best life and career chances, with expert academic and careers guidance. We adopt the principle of 'no stone left unturned' in the pursuit of success. It is our goal to promote a mature and independent culture of academic rigour with a real focus on developing the whole person, in preparation for adult life.

What makes the Sixth Form at KSA unique?

Joining KSA Sixth Form will be an experience like no other. Students will have the chance to shape both their learning and enrichment opportunities; and take an active role in the school community through leadership, student voice, volunteering and mentoring roles. We also offer two stimulating programmes: The Scholarship Programme, for those wishing to delve deeper into their academic interests in preparation for further study; and The Virtual Careers Academy, a programme to support every student in gaining valuable experiences, insights, skills and connections to support them in making informed career choices.

Why choose KSA Sixth Form?

KSA Sixth Form is a fantastic place to study. The expertise of the Sixth Form team when it comes to UCAS applications is second to none; students will be given help and guidance in securing the best university place or apprenticeship possible, along with opportunities to make themselves stand out. With a proven track record of supporting students to secure places at the very best universities such as Oxford, Cambridge, Imperial, UCL and Durham, and in securing apprenticeships with the BBC, Jaguar Land Rover, TFL and BAE systems, we know that our team offers all our students the opportunity to excel.

"It is our goal to promote a mature and independent culture of academic rigour with a real focus on developing the whole person, in preparation for adult life."

Beyond the curriculum

Japanese Culture

In June, our Year 10 students had the chance to visit Teikyo School, a local Japanese International School. Our students were great ambassadors of KSA and enjoyed learning origami and taking part in a traditional tea making ceremony. We look forward to working in partnership with Teikyo School more this academic year.

LEGO ROBOTICS

On Tuesday 17th July, our Year 7 students attended a stimulating STEM workshop at LEGOLAND Windsor Resort where they had the opportunity to construct their own robots and design a programme for it to sense and notify danger! The students showed great enthusiasm, impressing the LEGOLAND staff. It was wonderful to see that the workshop inspired students into thinking about careers in the science, technology, engineering and maths industries.



DEMONSTRATING SEVA

We were very proud and honoured to have performed at the Mayor of London's Vaisakhi event in Trafalgar Square. Twenty students from Years 7 to 10 represented the academy impeccably, putting on a range of musical performances. They demonstrated the Sikh value of giving to others, known as 'seva', is regularly witnessed across KSA, whether through being a prefect, a student on duty, working with the elderly or contributing at events.

The Oracy Project

At KSA, we have a strong focus on oracy in lessons, encouraging students to develop language, speech and confidence in order to improve their overall attainment across the curriculum. Students have been participating in balloon debates, Taboo, Ted Talks, Harkness discussions and mapping, in a variety of subjects.

The opportunity to learn how to successfully advocate and discuss issues has enlightened our students on the importance of language, confidence and talk. We look forward to continuing the project this academic year and seeing continued improvements in students' learning!

"Oracy in lessons has given me the skills, confidence and freedom to speak up and present my opinions to the class." Bhagat

ENRICHMENT WEEK

KSA is not just about what students learn in the classroom; as well as our enrichment programme that runs throughout the year, we provide a week long enrichment package, bespoke to each year group, at the end of the summer term which includes activities such as Duke of Edinburgh, trips to Thorpe Park and Black Park, specialist external leaders who provide workshops at the academy, Tabala sessions and a Sikh cultural day. The aim of this is to provide our students with the experiences to broaden their horizons and to help create well-rounded individuals.

"It was a really good week and I'm excited to continue to make the most out of these fantastic opportunities at KSA." **Mala, Year 7**

"It was an inspirational week for me. I really enjoyed the activities that we took part in as it gave us the opportunity to experience and learn about stuff that we would not normally cover." **Arshpreet, Year 8 student**

"Enrichment week was extraordinary. We learnt things we couldn't even imagine would be useful in our lives as we grow to become young adults. It boosted our confidence dramatically." **Simret, Year 9 student**

"Enrichment week gave me a chance to create memories with my friends, teachers and year group. This experience was rewarding after a year of hardwork." **Jasmine, Year 10 student**



Combined Cadet Force coming soon!

The Combined Cadet Force (CCF) is a unique educational partnership between KSA and the Ministry of Defence, incorporating Royal Navy, Royal Marines, Army or Royal Air Force sections.

Through enjoyable military themed and adventurous activities, cadets will have the opportunity to take responsibility, develop skills such as leadership, self-reliance, resourcefulness, endurance and perseverance. These are personal qualities which will remain of value throughout the cadets' lives and will undoubtedly assist when applying to university and in the early stages of their chosen careers.

Over the last few months, Miss Apenis, Mr Mangan, Miss Claydon and Miss Rigby have been in training so that KSA can launch its very own CCF. We have also recently appointed a SSI (School Staff Instructor), Mr Miller, who has more than 20 years of military experience to work specifically with our students and staff.

Twelve deserving Year 9 students have been selected to be our very first cadets this September, and once trained the CCF will be opened up to other year groups. This is a fantastic chance to take on leadership roles as students could have responsibility for a small group of cadets as a junior non-commissioned officer! Watch this space.

SPORTING SUCCESS

We have a range of sports on offer at KSA and last year proved to be a successful one for our budding athletes. To name but a few, our Year 7 and 9 girls' football team came third in the Slough School Sports Network tournament and five students were selected to represent Slough against the rest of Buckinghamshire in athletics. We also saw triumphs in netball, cricket and rounders.

We look forward to further sporting achievements in the coming months.





PREPARING FOR LIFE BEYOND KSA

By interacting with employers, our young people receive the best foundation for discovering new and varied career pathways, as well as developing the employability skills needed for their future workplace.

At KSA we continuously strive to develop new partnerships with local and national businesses, and relationships with our existing network, engaging employers to support the events and projects on offer to our students.

Budding entrepreneurs

In July, our Year 10 students took part in work experience, not only gaining valuable life skills and insights into possible careers, but also building their portfolio to boost CVs and university applications.

Thanks to our extensive partnership portfolio we can offer placements across a wide spectrum, ensuring students have an opportunity to suit them. Placements ranged from Education, Accountancy, Engineering and Banking to working with our local MP in the Houses of Parliament. We were proud that all of our students were exceptional ambassadors for our academy; it is always rewarding to hear of success stories from employers and students themselves:

"James fitted in well at the laboratory, contributing to discussions and helping with tasks. He was well liked by all and was a credit to the school." ITS Testing Services

"Jagroop was self-motivated and able to act on his own initiative. He was excellent throughout the week and it was a pleasure to work with him." Cippenham Library

"I have learnt many things, not just about The Property Bank, but a variety of things around business. My experience has motivated me to do well in my life and has made me realise that you have to work hard to achieve what you want." Ramnik, Year 10 student

HEATHROW CONNECTIONS

Year 11 students were delighted to attend the Heathrow Jobs & Careers Fair because it gave them a unique opportunity to connect with airport based employers and learn about the vast range of careers and training opportunities available to them. They were also able to attend an industry talk at the Sofitel Hotel where they were informed about various job roles within the hospitality industry.

Business Networking

Throughout the year, KSA invited leaders from local and national businesses, education establishments and influential members of the community to the academy to provide careers advice. This aimed to help raise student's aspirations, increase their motivation and encouraged them to open their minds to the endless possibilities and various roles available to them within different organisations. These successful visits included Pinewood Studios, Windsor Forest Group, Nationwide Building Society, GSM London, Thames Valley Police, Brunel University plus many more.