



Khalisa Secondary Academy
Hollybush Hill, Stoke Poges
Buckinghamshire
SL2 4QP

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31st October 2016

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to term 2; it is lovely to look out onto the grounds and see the autumn colours in the trees. We have all returned well rested from our half-term break ready for a jam packed, busy term ahead. As you will note from this letter, I have tried to give you a brief outline of some of the things planned for this term and hope that you will support us in whatever way you can. Please make a note of the upcoming dates in your diaries.

Year 7 PGL Trip

The Year 7s left this Monday for their residential trip to Osmington bay in Dorset. This is a great opportunity for them to gel together as a year group. There will be lots of team building activities, as well as individual challenges. They were all very excited as we waved them off and I am sure that they will have a fun-filled, action packed week.

Guru Nanak's Birthday Celebrations

What better way to celebrate Guru Nanak Dev Ji's birthday than through his teachings of selflessness, serving others! Here at KSA we will be celebrating Guru Nanak's birthday by supporting those in the community through a series of selfless service and seva over the next few months. Our first seva actually started before we broke up last term. Students and parents kindly donated food to support our charity, "Zero Hunger with Langar". The food goes to support families in Slough who are in crisis, as well as to feed the homeless on the local streets, through SWAT-Sikh Welfare Awareness Team. This is going to be our ongoing charity and every term we would like to help with donations of food, as well as giving of our time in support. We are asking all our families to support us and get involved by:

- Donating food such as tins of soup and food, packets of rice, pasta, drinks like tea, coffee, hot chocolate, as well as cereals and biscuits.
- Giving freely of your time to help.
 - o KSA students being free to help at the Slough Tesco to collect food for the foodbanks on 1-3 December;
 - o Volunteer to support the SWAT to distribute hot food to the homeless during the evenings and weekends. KSA will be volunteering their help. If you would like to support the charity, you can contact Randeep Singh directly on 07977131113 or email info@swatlondon.com

Visit to the Metropolitan Police

KSA has been privileged to have been invited to the Metropolitan Police headquarters in London on the 2nd November. We will be taking a group of students from years 7, 8 and 9 to perform at our first ever Guru Nanak Celebrations held at the Metropolitan Police. Last year we were invited to the House of Commons and the MOD. This year the invitation has come from the Met. Our reputation is growing despite being a new school which is only three years old!



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Thursday 10th November

KSA choir will be performing and singing to our senior citizens at Sunnyside Nursing Home. Some of the residents are terminally ill, have suffered from strokes or have other types of impairments.

Thursday 10th November - Preparing for 6th Form Parents Evening for Year 11

On Thursday, 10th November, we will be holding our first 'preparing for 6th form' evening from 6 pm to 7.30 pm. Throughout this year, we are planning an extensive programme for all our Year 11s, to help them prepare for post-16 studies. This programme has already started with the admission tutor from Oxford University coming to speak to our young people about applying to Oxford and Cambridge and what universities are looking for, as well as how to best present themselves.

The evening will launch the post-16 studies at KSA; not just what we are offering in the form of academic subjects, but also how we will be preparing our students to stand out against the crowd.

As well as our own students, we will be recruiting other students from other schools. So, even if your child at KSA is not in year 11, if you know friends or have relatives who will be starting the 6th form next year, please pass the word around and encourage them to come along and find out more on the 10th November. There will be speakers, subject stands, career stands, which will give you an insight into our 6th form provision.

Monday 14th November – Guru Nanak Gurburab

We will be having a special celebration in school with a few treats and surprises for our young people. Some of our students will also be going to Wexham Hospital with Mrs Kaur to read to terminally ill patients. **There will be no enrichment on that day and school will finish at 2.30 p.m. to allow families to celebrate together and go to the Gurudwara in the evening. The school transport will bring back your child(ren) an hour early and if you collect your child(ren) by car, they will need to be picked up at 2.30 p.m.**

Saturday 19th November

The KSA parent group would like to invite all of our families and friends to a family workshop from 3pm to 6 pm and community event, starting with Kirtan led by students. Anita Singh, the chair of our parent group and her team have been working hard to plan a series of events for both, the students and families of KSA. We have already had a successful movie night for our new year 7s and year 8s and there are many more events planned. All money raised by the parent group goes towards equipment needed for the Duke of Edinburgh programme. Millions of young people in the UK have already taken part in the world's leading youth achievement award – pushing personal boundaries, gaining new skills and enhancing their CVs and university applications. We cannot do this without your support, so we look forward to your participation at these events.

Friday 16th to Sunday 18th December

The school choir, organised and prepped by Mr Swanepoel, are singing carols in Gerrards Cross town centre, which will be a lovely experience for our students.



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Stakeholders Feedback

We are always interested in feedback from our staff, pupils and parents and will be asking you to fill in a short questionnaire later this term about different aspects of school life. We will then be able to use your feedback to contribute to further planning and development of the school.

Charitable Donations

I am sure that you would agree that your child is offered varied, amazing opportunities here at KSA. We firmly believe that by developing the whole child into well rounded individuals is as important as their academic performance. We try hard to ensure that every young person is included and has access to, not just our wide enrichment programme, but also to musical and spiritual teaching both, traditional and modern.

The older students in the school will have the opportunity to join the Duke of Edinburgh Award programme and in September 2017 we will be running our own Combined Cadet Force (CCF) in partnership with Cold Stream Guards. The vast majority of the costs for providing the activities on offer is met by KSA, supported by donations made by parents and a small number of community members. As the school grows, we would like to continue to offer these amazing opportunities to our young people and would ask for your support in this by donating £20 a term, or whatever you can afford, in support of the many activities and projects that we do.

I have attached a separate form outlining how to do this. You can donate by cheque made payable to Khalsa Secondary Academy, by standing order or by setting up a direct debit or by ParentPay into our donations account.

Your generosity and support will be greatly appreciated. Together we will work on the ethos of Guru Nanak Dev Ji's teachings of:

- Naam Japna, remembering God,
- Kirat Karni, earning an honest living,
- Vand Kay Shako; selflessly serving others, sharing income and resources

Please find below other key dates for your diary.

I would like to finish by wishing you all a blessed Guru Nanak Gurburab.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs R Codling
Principal



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Other Key dates for your diary

10th November 2016	Year 11 Parents Evening Preparing for A Levels
W/b 14th November 2016	Years 8, 9 and 11 Term 1 Reports to parents
W/b 21st November 2016	Years 7 and 9 TA1 Reports to parents
23rd November 2016	Parent Forum 6 pm
24th November 2016	All Years Parents Evening & Governors surgery 4 pm to 7 pm
5th December 2016	Pre Public Examinations (PPE) for Years 10 and 11 (Mocks)
20th December 2016	End of term - School closes at 1 pm

