



The Khalsa Academy Wolverhampton - Autumn Term Newsletter

Principal's Introduction

Dear all,

What has been another challenging term for all schools across the country is closing to an end. However at TKAW we have managed to maintain excellent attendance, standards and high expectations along the way. Our pupils have demonstrated the values through our new rewards system, which has proved really successful this term. The values have been at the centre of our school forming the foundations of our school.



As always, your support and continuous belief in the school has played a pivotal role in making sure the school continues to function during still a very difficult time, for which we as a school community are immensely grateful for. Our pupils have continued to thrive and grow through various aspects of school life and their educational outcomes. We have seen many external agencies this term engage with our pupils and help to shape their future. Our community are keen to invest in our pupils and this is testament to the hard work that staff have put into ensuring the educational provision for our pupils is strong.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my

staff for their hard work, thank you as parents for your support and our wonderful pupils for showing strength, courage and compassion. To all celebrating Christmas, may you have a Merry Christmas and a prosperous new year. For Sikhs around the world, the month of December is one of remembrance, where we remember the sacrifices that the Chaar Sahibzade (4 son's of the tenth Guru; Shri Guru Gobind Singh ji) made. We look forward to seeing you all in the new term in January 2022, where we will have a staggered start (days). **A letter outlining the arrangements for the staggered starts and testing will be emailed to you separately.** May I wish you all a peaceful break with your loved ones.

Parking:

Parking has now become a very large issue for the school and community. The Senior Leadership Team have spent many hours meeting with local businesses and residents to try and resolve the issues of parking.

I would like to make it very clear that you are not allowed to park alongside the road next to the school for the health and safety of your children and yourselves. There are large trucks that need the access clear for transportation of their goods. Similarly, you **MUST NOT** block any drive ways of our local residents. They are entitled to park on their drive way without receiving abuse from parents, which is extremely disappointing. This does not give a good impression of our school and we will not support any parents who display this behaviour.

I am really disappointed that this issue has continued and have been left with no choice but to ask the residents and businesses to call the police or the council as we have tried a number of times to resolve this issue.

I understand that parking is limited, however many school's across the city do not allow parents on site. Please ensure you park respectfully and are not obstructing any entrance. I would like to once again notify you that if you are obstructing any business and or resident they will be calling the police.

New Staff

We have welcomed new staff in various departments:

Manan Mirza – Vice Principal

Vinay Puri – Maths Teacher/Associate Assistant Principal KS4

Manraj Lall – Music Teacher

Manvinder Brainch – Maths Teacher

Surinder Bajwa -Maths Teacher

Sukhsimran Kaur – Teaching Assistant

Arnold Agbor Ebot – Business & Media Teacher

Surinder Kaur – Head of English

Lois Frith – 2nd i/c of English

Ramandeep Chatha – Receptionist

Burinder Dusanj – Student Welfare Manager

Nachtar Singh – Caretaker

Remembrance Day



The Midlands monument commemorating 21 Sikh soldiers who died during 'the greatest last stand in history' was revealed yesterday, Sunday 12th September 2021.

The statue, that was made by Black Country sculptor Luke Perry, was unveiled near the Guru Nanak Gurdwara in Wednesfield. It commemorates the Battle of Saragarhi, which was fought in an area of what is now Pakistan, back in 1894.



The conflict saw 21 soldiers from the 36th Sikh Regiment of the British Indian Army defend an outpost in Saragarhi which was surrounded and attacked by tribesmen. The 21 soldiers inside the outpost chose to fight to the death rather than surrender.

Careers Interviews and Workshops

Every year 11 student has the opportunity to receive a one to one careers interview, with a completed action plan to help them in their next steps. Sometimes students need a little bit of help to work out where their talents and passions lie. Not every individual can do the same jobs or follow the same career path, but they all need the same access to whatever they choose: We have a massive skills shortage in the UK and apprenticeships, college courses and further training are vital. We are here to provide that support and help to any student in whichever year group to help them find the career path that fits them best.

On Thursday 30th September our year 10s took part in online workshops with some International companies. We worked with Dell, ASM and Barclays bank to investigate how their companies work and what skills you need to join. Students were very interested in new and unusual career paths, for example how one person can have a degree in Literature and rise to working in cyber security for an international company.

Many of the activities were interactive and our school was praised for its participation.

We are continuing to develop our links with local companies and we are planning a careers fair for the whole school on 16th February, where students will meet universities, colleges, companies, training providers and businesses. We hope to have a wide range of options to show the students the range of opportunities available. If you would like to find out more, or if you would like to develop links with your business or company, please contact the careers team: careers@tkaw.org

Links with Universities

We are fostering our links with higher education and we are pleased to announce that the Humanities faculty has arranged for Aston University to attend Khalsa Academy on the 4th November. The university will be giving a talk to year 11, 12, and 13 history pupils on careers / life at university. This is an excellent opportunity for our students to talk to people with relevant and real life experiences after they leave Khalsa. Please speak to Mr. Bujarh if you are interested.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

On Friday 24th September 2021, we held our annual Macmillan coffee morning. It was held at 2pm to ensure that we could invite parents who would normally sit in their cars waiting for students.

It was lovely to see so many members of our community come to join us, especially as we could hold the event last year. We raised £114 in just 2 hours. Thank you to everyone who came. We are planning that next year will be even bigger and better.

National Poetry Day

For National Poetry Day on 7th October 2021, TKAW pupils took part in the

Empowered Poetry competition, run by the Young Writers organization. The last 18 months have been hard for students with school closures, isolation and general disruption to their education. As a result, the theme for National Poetry Day was "Choices", with the aim of allowing pupils to take back some control over their lives, to find and use their voices to express themselves through poetry. We had an impressive 38 official entries of completed poems sent in from pupils across the school, and we are delighted to announce that many of these poems are going to be published in "Teen Ink", the Young Writers' poetry anthology! Next term we will be able to reveal the names of the successful poets, and share their powerful poems - watch this space! The English Department

Open Events

We have had a number of Open events for both prospective students in year 6 and our 6th form. We have been pleased by the interest our school has generated in the local area and the numbers of families who have come to have a look around our school. If you haven't managed to visit and you would like to, there is still time to book an appointment to see how we act on a normal school day.

Enrichment

Enrichment groups are continuing with a busy programme including Drama, music, School Values, science Business Enterprise and Computing - to name a few of the options. This year, we are giving some of the foundation subjects a chance to shine and allowing students, who might have missed out last year, the chance to see what subjects might be like if they want to take them on at KS4.

We have also been enabling our year 11 to participate in Maths and English Intervention.

Additionally, we have run a number of Saturday intervention and revision classes for students during Saturday in the run up to the half term break. These were well attended and very useful in helping our students to gain the confidence they need to succeed in the subject areas. With thanks to Mr. Puri for organising the weekend sessions

Year 9 Parent's Evening

With the end of term fast approaching we look back at the business of the term we have just had. We enjoyed having year 9 parents evening and having the opportunity to say how impressed we

are with so many of our young people. It was a very good evening and showed how important it is to keep in touch with all our families.

worked hard to secure a 5 star food hygiene rating for our canteen and kitchens. The food is always lovely and it is great to see that we have maintained such a high standard in hygiene.

Year 11 Mock Exams

Year 11 sat their mock exams and focused for the entire exam season. The work ethic that they have displayed has proved that they have taken our core values of hard work and determination to heart.

Children In Need and Christmas jumper day

We have continued to support charities and this term we have had a cake sale for Children in Need and last week we enjoyed many students and staff dressing up in their festive jumpers.



Thank you to everyone who has supported our fundraising.

Christmas Tree Competition



We have had a lot of fun in year 7 with the Christmas tree competition. With thanks to our form tutors: Mr. Ebot, Mrs Bajwa, Mr. Brainch and Ms Frith for supporting their forms. The trees

looked stunning; the winning tutor group: 7B went on to decorate the Christmas tree at St. Leonard's church in Bilston. It was really good to be part of the competition which was organised by Bilston Lions Club.

360 Online Safety Award

It is with pride that we announce that we have been successful in gaining the 360 Online safety award for our school. Only 300 schools in the country have been awarded this standard and it is with thanks to Mr. Seabridge, our Head of Digital Enterprise and Digital safeguarding lead that we have it. This is a tangible sign of how seriously we take the safety of our students both in school and their online presence.

Food safety star rating

Congratulations to the canteen staff who have