



GURU NANAK SIKH ACADEMY LTD

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Principal: Mr R. S. Sandhu

23rd October 2017

Dear Parent

RE: October Half Term Newsletter

I am writing to inform you about a very successful first half term at GNSA. There have been a variety of exciting new initiatives and events that have taken place, which will contribute to the progress made by students at our school.

Student Parliament

October saw the launch of the new Student Parliament. The aim of the parliament is to enable students to help us make democratic decisions regarding all aspects of school life. There will be structure where students know who to contact if they want to raise an issue and who represents them and their views within the school. We want to develop students as leaders; those who can listen to their peers and who can represent the student body and the school with confidence and maturity. We want students who are committed to our school and its ethos and their own progression.

There was a rigorous election process where each form-class elected one Member of Parliament via an anonymous vote. Students wrote a formal application presenting their ideas and initiatives, as well as any past experiences which demonstrated their suitability for the role. These were judged by Form Tutors and successful candidates. They then had two weeks to campaign within their form class for the position, before having to present to their peers and face questions. The representative would then be elected by vote, highlighting the importance of a democratic process.

Students had the opportunity to apply to one of five departments; Student Support, Community, Teaching and Learning, Environment, Health and Well-being and House Competitions. Each department will meet every half term and the whole parliament will convene once a term. Now the real work begins, let's hope our students are better at keeping their promises than some real politicians!

We are proud to announce the new Prime Ministers for GNSA are **Serena Kutty** and **Amandeep Singh**. They underwent a rigorous application process which culminated in a live debate in front of the whole Sixth Form and answered probing questions from both students and staff. The Prime Ministers will now oversee the strategic running of the Parliament and replace the former Head Boy and Head Girl roles.

GCSEs

Year 11 had a productive Half Term with 20 sessions of targeted interventions taking place during lunch time and after school each week. This has ensured students hit the ground running in preparations for their GCSEs. Assemblies have focused on an introduction to future career paths, explaining the pros and cons of higher education, apprenticeships and employment. We have also discussed health and mental well-being in the build up to mock Examinations (beginning 4th December) where some students begin to experience exam stress.

GCSE Geography teachers braved the remnants of Hurricane Ophelia to escort students on the Geography field trip over two days, which formed part of the course and was an enjoyable experience!

On Thursday 19th October, Year 11 students and parents attended the Sixth Form Open Day in which every subject created a stall showcasing their content, exam procedure and future career paths. This was almost wholly organised and presented by our Sixth Form students who must be commended on their professional and informative manner. This allowed Year 11 students to speak to someone with first-hand experience of studying the subject at A-Level.

New Year 7 Students

All Year 7 students enthusiastically embraced the start of secondary school at GNSA and have settled in well with the help of their amazing Form Tutors, who have made sure students are happy and feel safe in their new environment. As a result, Year 7 has accumulated an astonishing amount of house points (1404 in total) in seven weeks, which is a school record! House points have been collected for excellent behaviour in class and around school as well as outstanding progress in lessons and participation in House competitions and clubs.

Many Year 7 students have already joined one or more of the many lunch time and after school clubs on offer. Two Year 7 students, Mehma Rai and Roshan Khutan, took part in presentations to parents and prospective Year 7 students on our Open Evening on 10th October and spoke eloquently and confidently about their experience in GNSA. Over 100 students volunteered on the evening and showcased what a wonderful school we are a part of. We also received feedback from Hillingdon Admissions team who highlighted how kind, helpful and informative our students were on the night and what a pleasure it was to take part in our Open Evening.

House Competitions

Following the exciting launch of the House competitions in the 2016/17 academic year, the winning House (Brunel) attended a trip to Thorpe Park in which they took part in a workshop that focused on the mechanics of a roller coaster. Over a 120 students came on the trip and were fascinated by the inner workings and engineering behind such impressive rides, not to mention going on the rides themselves!

It has been a competitive start to the 2017 House competitions. English, Maths, History and PE have hosted the events in this Half Term's competitions so far. Students were able to showcase their talents and represent their houses in a competitive setting, which brought great delight to both students and staff.

Pankhurst are currently leading with 124 points, however, Austen are in close second with 122 points. House Cup winners of 2017 Brunel have their work cut out as they currently lie in sixth position on 90 points:

Pankhurst - 124
Austen - 122
Seacole - 118
Harvey - 110
Franklin - 94
Brunel - 90

Anti-Bullying Ambassadors

Since September, we have been setting up a new project at GNSA and have had an overwhelming response from students wanting to get involved.

Anti-Bullying Ambassadors will be passionate young people who will stand up to bullying and believe they can change school life for the better. They will be professionally trained to support students at school and will take a stand to shape attitudes and change behaviours. The successful applicants will be revealed in the first week back and have direct input into the new Student Parliament.

It just remains for me to wish you a very enjoyable October holiday and I look forward to seeing you on Monday 6th November.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Perryman', with a small dot at the end.

Mr T Perryman
Assistant Principal