

ATAM ACADEMY Magazine

January 2019



What's inside?

Guru Nanak Gurburab birthday celebrations

The Grand Opening

Khalsa Academies Trust





Welcome

I am delighted to welcome you to the second edition of Atam Academy's magazine. In this edition we celebrate the opening of our state-of-the-art new building and look forward to welcoming our first Year 7 students this September.

The decision was taken for Atam to become an all-through academy because of the many benefits it brings. Younger students will enjoy a continuity of education unavailable to others, while those joining after primary school will benefit from invaluable leadership roles that don't exist elsewhere.

The reality of our future was brought to life in the Autumn Term with the grand opening of our new building. It was an inspirational day and I was delighted to share the moment with so many people from the community.

Bringing the community together is an integral part of Atam's value system. Compassion for others is built into our ethos and you can witness that in activities taking place across the academy, such as the Christmas sponsored sleep out to fundraise for a homeless hostel.

My team and I are working tirelessly to make sure such enrichment activities are available to our new Year 7 students in September. We want them to hit the ground running and our transition programme will kick off with our welcoming Friendship Afternoon in March.

I want to welcome all families with a child starting secondary education in September to join us at our open event in March. It is the perfect opportunity to see how we will harness innovative teaching and dynamic partnerships to provide students with a moral grounding, self-confidence and commitment to success that will see them excel, both personally and professionally.

I hope you enjoy reading about our expanding community in this edition. For more information about Atam Academy, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Sulina Piesse, Executive Headteacher

ASPIRATION • TOGETHERNESS • ADVANCEMENT • MERIT



Academy News

GURU NANAK GURPURAB BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

We marked the 549th birthday of the Guru Nanak Gurpurab – the first Sikh Guru – with a day of celebration and vibrant activities. An assembly was held in the brand new building where students took part in Kirtan (the singing of hymns) and were read stories describing the Guru's humility.



Bespoke weekend tuition launched at Atam

This January we are launching specialist extra tuition sessions in English, Maths and Science for both primary and secondary aged students, provided by Tailored Teaching. Sessions will run every Saturday from 10am–12pm.

Tailored Teaching will bring their vast expertise to support students' academic development. Their tutors have a combined total of over 10,000 hours of classroom teaching. For more information, please contact the academy.

GRAND OPENING OF THE NEW ATAM ACADEMY BUILDING

We celebrated our grand opening ceremony on 20th September 2018. Prayers, martial arts displays and the raising of a flag marked the official opening of our new building, inspired by the famed Sikh Golden Temple in Amritsar, India.

More than 500 people from across the community gathered to celebrate this momentous day. We started with the arrival of the Sikh Holy Scriptures, which were carried into our spiritual hall, and attendees then shared prayers with one another.

It was a fantastic mix of the Sikh and non-Sikh community, as everyone came together to celebrate the development of an educational centre of excellence for the local area. We were delighted to have been joined by Ilford North MP Wes Streeting, council leader Jas Athwal and Redbridge Mayor Cllr Debbie Kaur-Thiara.

It is a day that will live long in the memory and we would like to thank everyone who came for making it such a special day.

CELEBRATING FANTASTIC KEY STAGE 1 RESULTS

Our latest outstanding results go some way to showing the high standards we set and the quality of teaching students receive at Atam. Congratulations must go to our hard-working staff and students, whose dedication means the academy continues to go from strength to strength.

	GLD	Phonics	Reading	Writing	Maths	Combined RWM
National average	72%	83%	76%	70%	70%	65%
ATAM	83%	91%	83%	79%	90%	80%

Khalsa Academies Trust News



Valley View Primary School

Project Kenya

In the last edition we told you about our work with the Education Development Trust (EDT), which runs free schools in the UK but also operates in Kenya. We have promised to support their work as they strive to transform the lives of some 124,000 girls in Kenya.

As part of our commitment, three of our senior leaders recently went to share their expertise with the Valley View Primary School. This school, now 21 years old, serves the slum area in Nairobi.

At Atam, we were fortunate enough to hear about their experience and it inspired our students to increase their involvement supporting the local causes that matter to them.



KHALSA SECONDARY ACADEMY STUDENTS CELEBRATE RECORD BREAKING GCSE RESULTS

Khalsa Secondary Academy (KSA) continued their trajectory of outstanding success with the exceptional achievements of 2018's GCSE students. With GCSE grades now confirmed, here's a recap of some of the highlights:

- 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).

Top Performers:

Gurleen Kaur Singh joined the academy 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."

KAT Director receives Outstanding Contribution to Education award

We are delighted to announce that our Director of Education, Denise Shepherd, received a special recognition award for her outstanding contribution to Education at the All Party Parliamentary Panjab Group Gurburb 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. She has, and continues to be instrumental in ensuring that Atam's students receive the best education possible.



ATAM
ACADEMY
Together as one

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