Why does writing matter to us?

At Khalsa Secondary Academy, we believe very strongly that the ability to write accurately, confidently and effectively for a wide range of purposes, forms and audiences is essential to a child’s success in life.

In order to learn effectively and prosper academically in all areas of the curriculum, a child must develop strong writing skills from the very beginning of their time at KSA to make it through school and into their career.

However, more than just wanting students who are confident and secure in their command of the written word, we want to help all young people become passionate and successful writers, and we want to develop children who become committed life-long writers who write with purpose, power and pleasure.

As part of Khalsa Secondary Academy’s continued commitment and drive to improving literacy and promoting writing for pleasure and academic success, all pupils in Year 7 to 9 will be given access to NaNoWriMo.

What is NaNoWriMo?

NaNoWriMo is an organization that provides tools, structure, community, and encouragement to help people find their voices, achieve creative goals, and
build new worlds — on and off the page. NaNoWriMo believe emphatically in the transformational power of creativity. They began in 1999 with a straightforward challenge to budding writers: to write 50,000 words of a novel in thirty days.

Students at KSA are being given the opportunity to take part in a creative writing competition called NaNoWriMo (National Novel Writing Month). This is a fantastic opportunity for KSA students who can work independently or collaboratively with each other to write creatively about whatever their heart desires – It provides them with a unique opportunity to empower themselves as individuals by using creative writing and language as an outlet to demonstrate their talents. NaNoWriMo is exciting, educational and allows students to take responsibility for their work by releasing their inner editor.

**How does it work at KSA?**

KSA will begin with an introductory lesson to the project and the website: ywp.nanowrimo.org

KSA students will log on to the website using an exclusive code given to them by the class teacher. This is very important to mention as it keeps information safe and allows student work to be monitored by the teacher.

To work on their novels, students can submit their work to the website and set their own goals for how many words they would like their work to be by the end of the month, making NaNoWriMo something that is accessible to students of all abilities. It celebrates success and enables them to use progress-tracking tools to stay on track.

The Young Writers Program allows students to join November’s competition or Camp NaNoWriMo each April and July. These competitions can potentially lead to one of the student’s works being published, as there are young people who have published a novel as result of taking part in NaNoWriMo.

Even if KSA students choose not to enter the national competition, we encourage class challenges for fun or even encourage students to participate by themselves to develop independence and greater confidence in writing and as a means to express themselves. Students will use the tools on the website to create their workspace with the novel resources.

Even families can take part and log in by creating an account and managing their family’s work. It allows one to connect with others and even use this as a home school project - or just fun. As a parent or carer, you can create an account as an educator to create a classroom for your child.
If you require any information about the above, please contact a member of the English department or Mr Beeston Assistant Headteacher at i.beeston@khalsasecondaryacademy.com

For potential sponsorships and partnerships: pitches@nanowrimo.org.

To learn more about the leading NaNoWriMo site, visit nanowrimo.org.

Educators FAQ: https://ywp.nanowrimo.org/pages/for-educators