

Guru Nanak Sikh Academy

VI

CURRICULUM

OVERVIEW



Mission Statement

To provide an outstanding learning environment that challenges all of us to achieve our full potential and continually to share our knowledge and skills with the local and global community.

Our vision enables us

- *To build a strong community based on the Sikh religion.*
- *To provide quality education that is broad, balanced and relevant to the needs of pupils within a modern society.*
- *To enable all pupils to achieve their potential through the highest standards of teaching and learning.*
- *To develop each pupil's self-esteem, confidence and independence with consideration for others and the concept of Sewa.*
- *To strengthen bonds between home, community and school providing a preparation for each pupil's entry into the wider community.*
- *To be committed to encouraging every member of our community to invest in life-long learning and personal development.*

Our SHARE Values

<i>S</i>	-	<i>Service to all</i>
<i>H</i>	—	<i>Humility</i>
<i>A</i>	—	<i>Achievement</i>
<i>R</i>	—	<i>Respect</i>
<i>E</i>	-	<i>Equality</i>

Introduction

This year is going to play a crucial role in your academics where you will be making some serious decisions that will lead you to your university and eventually your chosen career. We appreciate that this could be a daunting experience for youngsters. So we have put together this booklet to help you understand the process which is mainly structured in order to provide you with support and guidance in this year.

The booklet focuses on the year 12 curriculum and has been designed as a 'go to guide' for you to reference during the course of next year.

It includes:

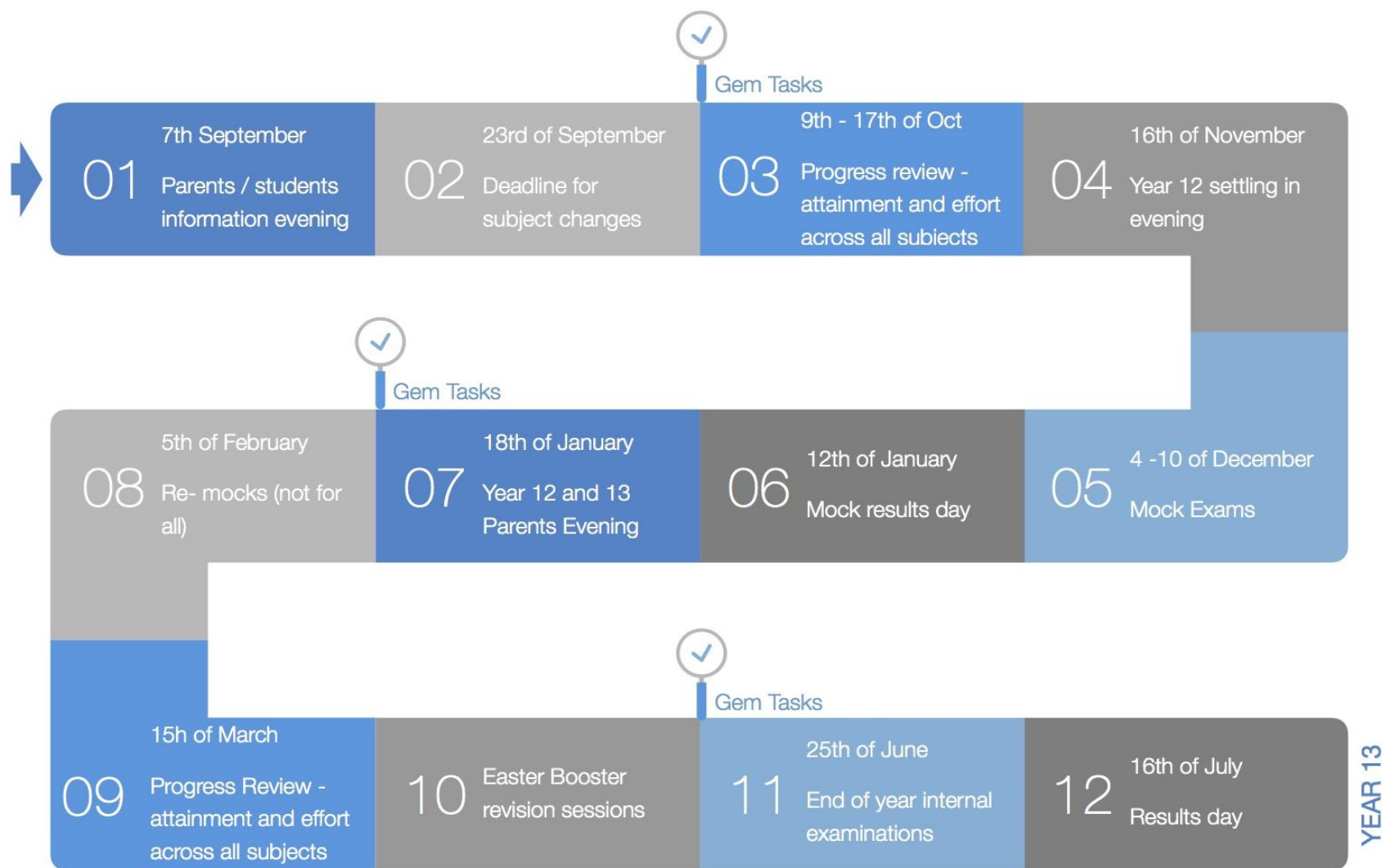
- A comprehensive timeline of the year, including dates for key assessments and mock exams
- Our plan for supporting all students to achieve their best this year through independent study, Coaching for Learning programme, target intervention and revision
- The provision curriculum: EPQ, LAMDA, university preparation and UCAS applications
- Range of enrichment activities for you to develop employability, social and leadership skills

Should you have any questions about the curriculum and assessment plans for the year please speak to individual teachers or relevant Subject Leader. Alternatively contact the Sixth Form team who is always keen to help:

Jaskamal Sidhu - Assistant Principal VI - jaskamal.sidhu@gnsa.co.uk

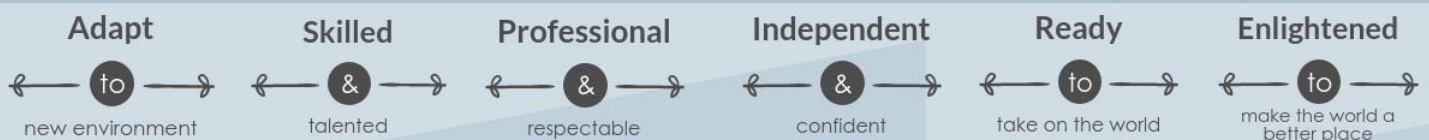
Gurminder Kaur – Progress Leader VI – gurminder.khutan@gnsa.co.uk

Academic Calendar



A S P I R E

GNSA Sixth Form - Six Steps to Success



ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

We offer at GNSA VI

*Mock
Interviews*

*S.W.A.T
Vounteering*

*UCAS
Conference*

*Subject
Ambassadors*

*Motivational
and
Information
Assemblies*

*Work
Exprerience*

*Educational
Trips*

*Recreational
and Leisure
Trips*

*Team Building
Activity Days*

*GNSA
Dragon's Den*

*Student
Parliament*

VI Quiz Night

Beck Theatre

*Public Speaking
Opportunities*

*Parkash and
Gurpurabs*

*Christmas
Dinner and
Dance*

VI Prom Night

*PSHCE
Community
Events*

The Assessment Process and Support

GCE Target setting

All young professionals are given aspirational targets which are calculated using their baseline results data, GCSE grades and historic data from across the country. We ensure that every young professional is challenged to reach their full potential in their assessments. Students receive their targets for all their chosen subjects and these are consistently compared to current attainment and teachers' predictions at every assessment point in the year ahead.

Supporting you to achieve your best

According to a research based on a study of thousands of college and sixth form students the average amount of time spent by students to achieve AAA is 35 hours per week outside their lessons. The majority of young professionals have six lessons during weekly timetable. Sixth Form suite is designed and equipped so you have opportunities to do your independent and private study. The suite is exclusively used to study without interruptions, using your electronic devices focussing on reading, researching and completing GEM tasks which need to be done well and on time. How you use this time in your responsibility although the time is monitored by the teachers and the area is supervised during the day. It is critical that Private Study time is used effectively.

Sixth Form Portfolios

Every Sixth Form student is given a Learning Portfolio which helps young professionals to organise and plan their learning on weekly / daily basis. It also helps them to reflect on their learning and understanding on their topics in each of the chosen subjects. Students are given three sets of documents to include in their portfolios.

1. ASPIRE Sheet: Helps you to remember the reasons why you chose to do A Levels in your subjects by writing down your aspirations. Also, gives you opportunity to identify your biggest challenges and work with your tutors to build strategies in order to destroy these obstacles.
2. Weekly Review Sheet: Every Tuesday form tutors will work with their groups in order to do a weekly review and set new weekly targets.
3. Subject Review Sheet: Every young professional will receive three sheets – one for each subject which they will use to record the scores for their GEM tasks and feedback they received from their teachers.

Coaching for Learning

The young professionals who find the A Levels challenging and are underachieving in their assessments find our Coaching for Learning programme very useful. CfL gives them an opportunity to work one to one with a professional mentor and do a weekly/daily review of their set tasks and targets. CfL helps them to plan SMART targets in order to gradually move towards their targets. It is absolutely essential that you are working independently to organise and plan the out of lessons time.

Motivational and Information Assembly every week

Every Wednesday morning Sixth Form comes together to attend talks and discussions by visitors from various educational institutes and professional careers advisers in order gain knowledge and information which provides them with guidance to make important decisions for their future. Most of these visitors are from Russel Group of Universities which has proven to be highly motivating for our YPs. Some of the topics chosen by our visitors are:

- ✓ How to choose your courses?
- ✓ How to enhance your UCAS statement?
- ✓ Funding your education after Sixth Form
- ✓ What do Top Universities expect from their applicants?
- ✓ How to develop time management and organisational skills?
- ✓ Essay Writing skills
- ✓ Make most of your Sixth Form experience
- ✓ Developing Growth Mind-set
- ✓ Apprenticeships and other options
- ✓ How to manage stress in Post 16 years?

Preparing for University

Preparing for University requires getting top grades at AS Level. Top Universities, including the Russell Group Universities, are looking for A and B grades at AS Level. With low academic grades, students have limited choices for university.

EPQ – Extended Project Qualification

Doing EPQ is going to give to opportunity to attain essential skills such as working independently, time management, organisation, think innovatively and creatively and research independently. EPQ is highly rated by all universities and is recognised as equivalent to AS if achieved A*. A project topic may be directly related to a main programme, but should look beyond the specification.

During the EPQ, students learn to:

- **Manage** – identify, design, plan, and complete a project (or task within a group project), applying organisational skills and strategies to meet stated objectives
- **Use resources/research** – obtain and select information from a range of sources, analyse data, apply it relevantly, and demonstrate understanding of any appropriate connections and complexities of a topic
- **Develop and realise** – use a range of skills, including using new technologies, to solve problems, to take decisions critically, creatively and flexibly, and to achieve aims
- **Review** – evaluate the outcome, including learning and performance

The EPQ is graded on an A* - E scale and 70 UCAS points are awarded for an A*. Every young professional who undertakes EPQ will be assigned a mentor who will do weekly review with them on their progress.

The UCAS application

The Academy will support your son/daughter to choose the right university pathway and career with confidence. The right university degree and career will probably make your son/daughter a happier, more prosperous, and more enlightened person.

Critical for a degree is the UCAS Application. UCAS stands for Universities and Colleges Admission Service. UCAS coordinates applications to different universities – a student can apply to up to five universities through UCAS.

Guru Nanak Sikh Academy provides expert advice on UCAS applications and it is critical that students follow this advice.

Often people present the UCAS process to be very complicated and difficult: it is not, if your son/daughter is organised, honest and, after taking some time to weigh up different options, decisive. By September 2017, you should have:

1. Chosen your preferred degree
2. Chosen five universities where this degree may be studied (with a favourite 'firm choice' and an 'insurance choice' – a back up which requires lower grades for entry.
3. Complete a UCAS form and written a personal statement explaining why it is the preferred degree.

A well written UCAS application backed up by relevant and effective work experience evidence can really excel your chances to get into top universities of UK. However, the most important is Year 12 end of year grades.

Our teachers and form tutors will work together to write an honest and supportive UCAS reference which will be completed in Autumn term of next year. The reference will describe your learning attitude since starting A Levels. We encourage our young professionals to pay attention towards their attendance, punctuality and participation in enrichment activities which will count as strong evidence in their reference.

You will require entering your predicted grades which will highly depend on the Year 12 end of year grades.

UCAS Deadlines 2017 -18	All students	Oxbridge / Medicine & Dentistry (early applicants)
<i>End of summer 2017</i>	Logged on and register with UCAS. Meeting with tutor and Subject Teachers regarding starting their Personal Statement draft.	
<i>Autumn Term Week 1</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Finalise their subject and university choices (including college choice for Oxbridge candidates) 2. Informed relevant tutors of any changes to subject choices or courses. 	
<i>Week 2</i>	Completed first draft of Personal Statement & shown to tutor.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Completed final draft of Personal statement & shown to tutor. 2. Visit open days for Oxbridge colleges
<i>Week 3</i>	Improve the statement based on tutor's feedback	
<i>Week 4</i>		Completed online UCAS forms, submitted for school to check (this does not submit the form to UCAS, only the school can do that!)
<i>Week 5</i>		Find out any further requirements such as written work / projects or entrance test scores to be sent and discuss with UCAS mentor
<i>Week 6</i>	Completed UCAS forms submitted for school to check (this does not submit forms to UCAS, only school can do that). Those not applying this year should complete form as well.	
<i>Week 7</i>		
<i>November (After Half Term)</i>	All statements are quality checked and feedback given to students by UCAS mentors.	

GNSA ASPIRE Diploma

Every employer and University is interested in youngsters who are keen to develop knowledge and skills beyond their academic subjects. At GNSA you will be given opportunities that can help you to unlock new set of skills inside you but it'll be completely up to you to participate and use these opportunities in your best benefit.

Under GNSA ASPIRE Diploma, we provide these opportunities in form of enrichment activities over the period of two years of sixth form. This is a programme which will help you structure time and commitment beyond the classroom and help develop knowledge, skills and interests. The GNSA ASPIRE Diploma is designed to push your personal development through extr – curricular activities, leading clubs and helping student / teacher community.

By achieving this Diploma, you will attain knowledge and skills which will enhance your CV / UCAS statement.

GNSA ASPIRE Diploma
Excellent attendance of 95% or above
EPQ
Leadership in School Parliament
Participation in 5 or more house competitions
Regular participation in school events (open evenings/ parents evenings, school assemblies)
Part of Subject Ambassadors - holding clubs and societies for younger year groups
Over 30 hours of work experience
Achieve target minimum grades in chosen three subjects

GNSA Parliament

Student Parliament Structure

- One Department meeting per half-term
- One Parliament meeting per-term
- Available for consultation with students at regular intervals

