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## Newsletter October 2013

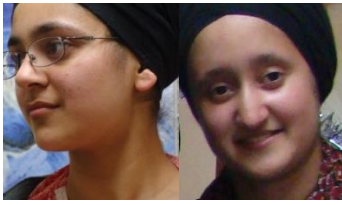
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# S.S.S.E.C.





Welcome to the first edition of the SSSEC newsletter! <sup>2</sup>

This will cover events from the previous term, achievements of our pupils, quizzes, and upcoming dates. We will also be including content by SSSEC pupils, such as articles and artwork.

## Student Achievements

### Music exams

In July 2013 some of our music students and teachers sat music exams run by the **Pracheen Kala Kendra** in Chandigarh. Most candidates chose to do a junior diploma in classical vocal or instrumental music, while three of our teachers gained a senior diploma. The examiner for the practical exams was **Giana Sital Singh Sitara**, a much respected personality. We want to say a massive congratulations to everyone who took part as **everyone passed** with good marks. Some candidates even gained distinction in their theory or practical exams. **Any other students who wish to take part in these exams should talk to Mrs Jaswant K Bola or one of the other kirtan teachers to find out more.**



### Punjabi GCSE and A Level

Congratulations to all those who took their Punjabi GCSE and A level exams this year. Everyone did extremely well and we are **very proud of the amazing results** they achieved! Four pupils took Punjabi GCSE, with two pupils gaining A\*, one pupil receiving an A, and one pupil receiving a C. Six pupils took Punjabi AS level, with four pupils receiving an A grade, and two pupils getting a B grade.

### Hemkunt symposium

Every year, many children take part in the annual Hemkunt symposium, which is a **speech competition** run by the Sri Hemkunt Foundation for children **aged 6 to 25**. The children are given questions to answer in the form of a speech, with help from a prescribed book. In order to reach the international stage of the competition, participants had to pass through the centre level and then the zonal level. This year, **more than thirty children** from SSSEC took part in this competition. **Kajol Kaur** in particular performed brilliantly, beating many contestants to earn a place at the international level in **New York** in August.





# Recent Events

## Kirtan Darbar

An annual **kirtan competition** is also organised alongside the symposium, for children aged between **10 and 25**. Participants take part in jathas of 3 – 5 members, and each age category is given a **specific raga** to prepare a shabad in. In the past, one of our jathas won **first place** in the international competition, when it was held here in London. For the last two years, unfortunately, there have not been enough jathas to run the competition, but we hope that we will be able to restart it this year. Instead we organised a kirtan darbar at Havelock Gurdwara for everyone to take part in. Children from as far as **Oxford and Luton** participated and helped to make this event successful.



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## End-of-year programme and prize-giving

On Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2013, we held our annual end-of-year programme and prize-giving. The day started off with our normal assembly in the Darbar hall, after which we moved into the sports hall downstairs for the **Punjabi-themed programme**.

This included **presentations by each class** which were very **well prepared**. The hard work of the students, teachers and parents certainly showed, and the presentations were done without a glitch.

This was then followed by **certificates and prizes** being given to all the students for attendance and good exam results.



## Punjabi class exams

The end-of-year Punjabi exams went very well and all students who took the exams were able to show their ability in the language. The pupils who achieved the **top three** scores in each class were awarded **special prizes** in the end of year award ceremony. These tests allow the children to become **more confident** in exam situations, helping them with their GCSEs and A Levels. On the basis of these exams children can get moved up to the pre-GCSE and GCSE classes.



On Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2013, many of our students, teachers and parents went to Derby to visit the National Sikh Heritage Centre and Holocaust Museum. This museum is home to many historical Sikh artefacts including guns and cannons from the time of Baba Banda Singh Bahadur!



## Trips to Derby

All students were provided with a worksheet to ensure that they paid attention to their surroundings and remembered at least some of what they had seen! Here is what **Bavleen Kaur** and **Sonaldeep Kaur** thought about the day:

*On Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> July, we went to Derby to visit the National Sikh Heritage Centre and Holocaust Museum. We went in a coach and it took us at least 2½ hours to get there. When we reached there, my friend and I were given an introduction to what our day would be like. We were also told some fascinating facts about Sikhism. On our tour we learnt a lot about Sikhism and Sikh history. As well as that, we saw Guns and Cannons and more. We saw a picture of the Guru Granth Sahib when it had been destroyed in Amritsar. While we were doing that, the parents and the children (the other group) were colouring in. Furthermore they had already eaten while we were learning about Sikh history. Finally we got to eat and take some photos. Before we went we went to the Gurdwara. While we were coming back we sang and played games in the coach. We had an amazing day!*



Due to the success of the first trip we then organized another trip on 12<sup>th</sup> October, which was also a great success. This time, the group was smaller, so the children were able to tour the museum with their parents and teachers. We found that this meant they took more information in, although the mini-quiz during the return journey also helped a lot!





# Future Events

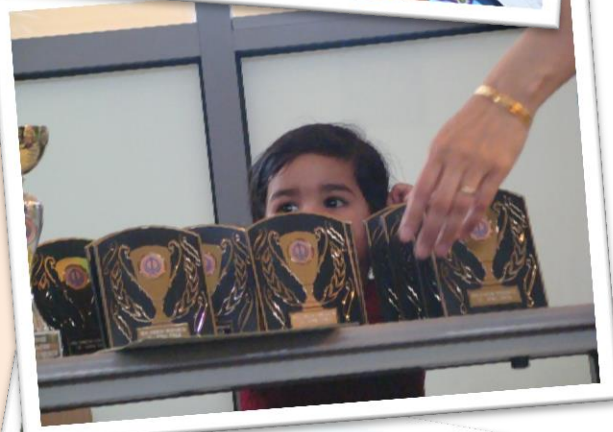
This year we have many new and exciting events for our pupils and the wider community:

A **Gurmat class for parents** has been running during normal Punjabi and Kirtan class times. All parents are welcome to join and learn more about Sikhi in this friendly environment.

We also hope to continue the **workshops about personal development** which were started last June. We are thinking of running more workshops on other topics such as Sikh history.

A **Gurmat-based competition** for people of all ages will be announced soon. Contestants will be split into four age categories and receive a book to read in order to prepare for the competition. The competition will be in the format of a timed multiple-choice exam based on the book the contestants have received. We hope to run this competition next summer.

The recent visits to the **Sikh museum in Derby** have been so successful that we are thinking of repeating this trip for those who weren't able to attend the first two. So if anyone is interested in visiting this museum in Derby, they should talk to one of the SSSEC teachers about organising a visit.



**APPLICATION FORMS FOR BOTH THE SPEECH COMPETITION AND KIRTAN COMPETITION WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM SSSEC FROM DECEMBER. THE COMPETITIONS WILL TAKE PLACE IN SPRING 2014.**

# Important Notices

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## New Timetable

From the first Sunday of the new half term (10<sup>th</sup> October) the timings of the classes will be changed to allow a break between Panjabi and kirtan class. Half-hour Gurmat classes will also be started for all those who attend Punjabi classes. The new structure is:

- **10:00 – 10:30** Assembly
- **10:30 – 12:30** Punjabi Class (with 30 mins Gurmat)
- **12:30 – 13:00** Break time for those attending both Punjabi and Kirtan
- **13:00 – 14:30** Kirtan and Tabla class

## New Punjabi class structure

This year our Panjabi classes have been organised according to age, as shown below. This is a flexible system, however, so if a teacher feels that a pupil is well ahead of the others, they will be moved up to the next class. Pupils will not normally be moved down a class.

Age	School Year	SSSEC Punjabi Class	Class teachers
<b>3, 4, 5+</b>	Nursery – Year 1	Naveen Paniri	Amarjit Kaur Kundan, Harpreet Kaur Ajmeet Singh, Harneet Kaur
<b>6+</b>	Year 2	Class 1	Guneet Kaur Matta, Navjot Kaur Sangha
<b>7+</b>	Year 3	Class 2	Guljit Kaur Gulati, Amanpreet Kaur Pangli
<b>8+</b>	Year 4	Class 3	Sandeep Kaur Walia, Amanpreet Kaur Sandhu
<b>9, 10+</b>	Year 5 & Year 6	Class 4	Gurwant Kaur Shahi, Jatinder Kaur
<b>11 – 18</b>	Year 7 – Year 13	Youth Beginners	Sukhjit Kaur Nagra
<b>11 – 18</b>	Year 7 – Year 13	Pre-GCSE	Baldev Kaur Marway
<b>18 +</b>	N/A	Adult Class	Harbans Kaur Sidhu, Varinderpal Singh Walia
		GCSE	Baljit Kaur Bains, Karamjit Kaur
		AS Level	Ranjit Kaur
		A2 Level	Jaswant Kaur Bola
Centre coordinators: Jaswant K Bola, Harbans K Sidhu, Sukhraj Kiran Kaur    Centre director: Tejinder Pal Singh			

## Other Classes currently offered

Class	Teachers (+ times)
Kirtan (beginners – advanced)	Jaswant Kaur Bola, Guneet Kaur Matta, Gurleen Kaur, Harpeet Kaur, Harneet Kaur
Tabla (beginners – advanced)	Kiranpal Singh Deora, Kartar Singh Deora, Amrit Singh
12 week course about Guru Granth Sahib ji	Dr. Rani Kaur Vaid (10:00 – 12:00)
Shabad Vichar for parents	(11:00 – 12:00)
Gurmat Discussions for parents	(starts at 12:30)

## Term dates

**3<sup>rd</sup> November 2013** – Half term holiday

**10<sup>th</sup> November 2013** – Classes restart

**24<sup>th</sup> November 2013** – SSSEC closed for nagar kirtan

**22<sup>nd</sup> December 2013** – Last week of autumn term

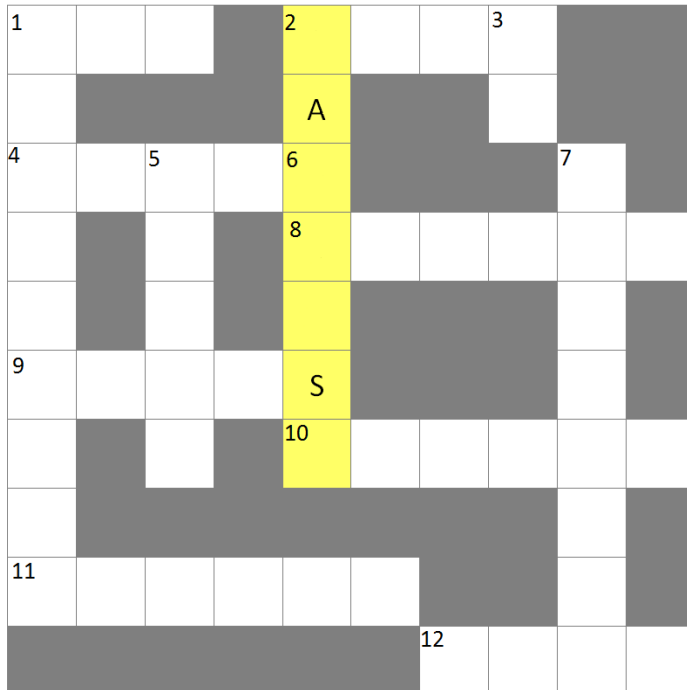
**29<sup>th</sup> December 2013 & 5<sup>th</sup> January 2014**

– SSSEC closed for Christmas holidays

**12<sup>th</sup> January 2014** – Classes restart

# activities Page

Complete the crossword and find out more about the mystery word on the next page! TWO letters of the mystery word have already been filled in to help you ☺



## Across:

1. First name of our ninth Guru (3)
2. Number five in Punjabi (4)
4. Start of mool mantar: Ik \_\_\_\_\_ (5)
8. One of the five Ks (6)
9. The prayer we do while standing up (5)
10. The third of the panj pyare (6)
11. Evening prayer (6)
12. Name of Guru Gobind Singh's eldest son (4)

## Down:

1. Shabad sung before ardas (9) we learnt this in kirtan last year!
2. MYSTERY WORD (7)
3. Used for respect after someone's name (2)
5. First name of the cannibal Guru Nanak met on his travels (5)
7. Birthplace of Guru Nanak Dev ji (8)

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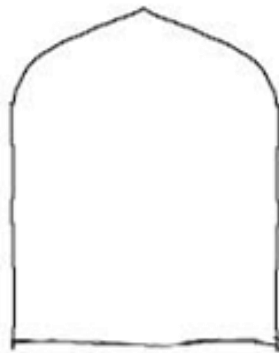
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# Pehla \_\_\_\_\_

The 'Pehla \_\_\_\_\_' is the anniversary of the first \_\_\_\_\_ of the Guru Granth Sahib Ji (then known as Adi Granth).

It is celebrated at the end of August or the start of September every year. On this day in 1604, the Adi Granth was installed at the Harimandar Sahib (also known as the Golden Temple).

Guru Arjan Dev ji (our fifth Guru) collected the bani (writings) of the first five Gurus and other people who shared Sikh values and beliefs. He then compiled all these writings into the Adi Granth by dictating the bani to Bhai Gurdas ji.

During the first \_\_\_\_\_ of the Adi Granth, Baba Buddha ji was the granthi. The first ever Hukamnama was 'Santa ke kaaraj aap khaloiaa, har kam karaavan aaiya raam'.

Guru Arjan Dev ji sat on the floor below the level of the Adi Granth to show respect to the true Guru. At night the Adi Granth was kept on Guru ji's bed while he slept on the floor.

After this, the only change made to the Adi Granth was the addition of Guru Teg Bahadur ji's bani by Guru Gobind Singh ji, before declaring Guru Granth Sahib ji the eternal Guru.

The Guru Granth Sahib ji contains the bani of the first five Gurus and the ninth Guru. There are also shabads by people from the Hindu and Muslim faiths – including so-called 'untouchables' – as well as some Sikhs. The bani of 15 bhagats (saints) and 17 bhattas (bards) is present in the Guru Granth Sahib alongside the Gurus' bani.