

Newsletter

Head of Sixth Form's Welcome



A very warm welcome from all of us at INA! We are very excited about the launch of our Sixth Form in September 2017 and we'd like to keep you updated with news and our plans to date.

We are delighted to announce that Sheniz Khan has been appointed to the administrative team and is leading the work around supporting the set-up of the Sixth Form. Please read more from her below.

Remember, applications are now open and close on Friday 27th January 2017. Please do get in touch if you have any questions by emailing us at: sixthformapplications@isaacnewtonacademy.org

With best wishes,

Sugra Alibhai
Head of Sixth Form

Welcome...

Sheniz Khan, Administrative Officer



I have recently joined INA as an Administrative officer. I graduated in Education Studies at UCL – Institute of Education, where I then pursued various temporary roles which allowed me to gain an insight into some of the different fields within education. Since graduating I have coded international exam papers for TIMSS and PISA as well as worked for the Apprenticeships team at Newham College of Further Education.

I am extremely excited to be a part of INA and look forward to working closely to all the staff and students across the different departments of the school. I am especially excited to be working closely with the new sixth form and look forward to helping students through their transition from key stages 4 to 5. I am able to relate to the students, as I too many years ago was the first amongst a cohort of students in a brand new school in the East End of London.

Staff Preparation for the Sixth Form

We are busy ensuring that our staff have had access to the best professional development to support them in preparing for the opening of our Sixth Form.

Over the October half term Mr Davoll and Mr Singh had the fantastic experience of visiting Phillips Exeter Academy in Boston, USA. They were able to fully immerse themselves in the Harkness method and will share their learning with others to ensure that our KS5 teaching has plenty of opportunity to utilise this method. Their reflections are included in this month's newsletter.

Last month staff had the opportunity to visit sixth forms to glean best practice. We have staff visiting a number of different institutions to support planning for the new specifications, the EPQ, and our INA Diploma.

Ms Alibhai attended a course to support our students in developing Critical Thinking Skills, one of the many opportunities offered to us as a school in the ARK Schools Network.

We have an unwavering commitment to ensuring that our Sixth Form students will be exposed to outstanding teaching that will support them as they transition to university.

Our Visits

We were recently invited to join the Year 11 Sixth Form information events at Connaught School for Girls, Little Ilford School and Walthamstow School for Girls. It was great to meet so many of you and for us to share more about our vision and course offer.

We will be visiting Kelmscott School on the 19th of January. Please pop by to hear more about us.

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Visiting Us - Sixth Form Tours 3rd January 6pm-7pm

Due to high demand we will be offering prospective students the opportunity to see our facilities and hear more about our vision in a one hour tour.

Please note you will need to book a place to join us for these events. Please check our website for further details.

Reflections on visit to Phillips Exeter Academy

Harkness is unique to PEA (and now to INA) in that students are required to do pre-learning as independent learning prior to lessons. The lessons are student led, but facilitated by the teacher and are used to consolidate ideas and concepts through discussion, and by applying them to various scenarios.

During the October half-term I had the pleasure of visiting Phillips Exeter Academy, Boston, to observe the Harkness method of teaching first hand. My motivation for wanting to go on the trip was to see Harkness in the place of its origins and to see how it can be applied to KS4 & KS5 teaching of Science here at INA, and I wasn't disappointed! It was a whirlwind of a trip but I learnt so much and I was amazed by the staff, their facilities and of course the students, who were so adept at Harkness and had clearly benefitted so much from this style.

I have returned from the trip with a sense of purpose and clarity. My next steps are to apply the skills I learnt at PEA in my own teaching and disseminate to the Science team and beyond. I'm so excited about incorporating Harkness into the teaching of A Level Chemistry next year, when pre-learning and independent learning beyond the classroom are so vitally important to student success.

I feel privileged to have visited PEA and I know that our students will be the beneficiaries of this. I'd like to thank Rachel Macfarlane and Gerard Griffin for giving me this opportunity to serve the INA community. Thanks.

Mr Singh

Year 11 Pastoral Leader

My visit to Phillips Exeter Academy really brought home to me the vital role that Harkness teaching and learning plays in developing independence and self-motivation among students. In each of the Harkness lessons that I observed, students were able to initiate and develop discussions, were proactive in avoiding distractions, and showed a genuine interest in helping one another to better understand their learning. These are all qualities that I have seen demonstrated by students at INA, qualities that I am keen to develop further in order to prepare for life at University.

Mr Davoll

KS3 English Coordinator

