

PINNER

HIGH SCHOOL

INSPIRING LEARNING

ISSUE 5 SUMMER 2019



IN THIS
ISSUE

PINNER
ART



TOP
MARKS

Ofsted
Outstanding
Provider

www.pinnerhighschool.org



Investors
in People
Good Practice

Health &
Wellbeing
Award



Artsmark
Silver Award
Awarded by Arts
Council England

FORWARD MARCH



A PIVOTAL MOMENT FOR THE TRAILBLAZERS OF PINNER HIGH SCHOOL: FROM THE START OF THE FEBRUARY HALF TERM THEY ARE NEARER THEIR GCSE EXAMS IN YEAR 11 THAN THEY ARE TO THEIR FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL IN YEAR 7.

There is a collective sharp intake of breath when they have this pointed out in assembly. That first first day in September 2016 was surely just yesterday? With over 500 students, nearer 700 by September, and a waiting list of 150 perhaps we might soon be 'the new school' no longer?

The year groups nearer the end than the beginning have thrived on their new challenges. We try to maintain the sense of fun as pressures mount up. Midterm exams alongside planning the growth of the new school. New opportunities for them and their younger classmates as they grow: our first trip to China, in the summer our first trip to Costa Rica. Personal development is central to a Pinner High School education, highlighted by the Pinner High School Values: a new CCF Army contingent in an exciting collaboration with John Lyon School in the coming months, Police Cadets already started for our Year 7s. Almost half of Year 9 are actively involved in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme. New trails to explore as the students take new directions.

So as the trailblazers pass the half way point towards their GCSEs, what of the rest of the school? A sense of familiarity, perhaps, to the pattern of our new school life: our third ski trip returns successfully, and the fourth expands and fills up within a week. Our third school musical, 'Hairspray' picking up and moving on where 'Bugsy Malone' and 'Beauty and the Beast' left off. The new Year 7 boys football team: borough champions just as the trailblazers were before them.

Year 8 footballers won't be left out, and win the cup in a tight final against Nower Hill. More photos on our Wall of Fame to help us live the history of our new school.

In 2017 we were featured in the Parliamentary Review, showcasing best practice in education across the country. This year in the House of Lords Grand Committee debate on education, Pinner High School was highlighted as "a credit to those involved in setting them up and the teachers who work there". Our commitment to the Arts was recognised with the Silver Artsmark, leapfrogging straight over the Bronze Award.

And through all this recognition for the students, our community grows ever stronger. Our inaugural Parents Association event took place with over a hundred people pitting their wits against each other in a quiz night. It was brilliant to welcome parents who have been with us since the start and those who will be joining us in September, when we begin our fourth year.

A midterm report for those past the half way point? The same as for those who will start in September: plenty of challenges ahead, and lots of opportunities to look forward to at Pinner High School.

Chris Woolf

Headteacher

"THE FORMAL AND WIDER CURRICULUM ENSURES THAT PUPILS FLOURISH ACADEMICALLY WHILE DEVELOPING OUTSTANDING PERSONAL AND SOCIAL SKILLS"

OFSTED 'OUTSTANDING' 2019

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Outstanding!



I am beyond delighted to celebrate the news that Pinner High School was judged to be Outstanding in all categories in our recent Ofsted inspection.

Just 7% of the high schools inspected in the first term of this academic year received this judgement* and I am so pleased for the whole community that our positive views of the school have been endorsed in this way. In 2014 when I joined the Governing Body it immediately became clear how much potential the school had, and to see that realised over the years and confirmed in this manner is a cause for great celebration.

We are lucky to have such a creative and dynamic staff who have brought the school to life and such impressive young people as students at Pinner High School. Governors have always spoken of the need for Pinner High School to be an inclusive school for the whole community, and to have delivered this to such a high level so quickly is wonderful. There were lots of tears after the Ofsted Lead Inspector delivered her judgement at the end of the process!

Much as we celebrate this news, we know that an inspection measure is not the same as the experiences of the students and staff every day that the school has been open. The commitment to staff wellbeing and the opportunities with which students are presented and the progress they make in their learning, are the key benchmarks of our success. That the students say they feel their school is Outstanding also speaks volumes.

Just as the school is always looking to the future, so we are as Governors. We celebrate David Chappell's Outstanding Contribution to Harrow Schools Award from the Association of Harrow Governing Bodies. As we are all volunteers it is brilliant to be able to recognise this achievement.

We have recruited two new Governors for the new academic year from a very strong field of interested candidates. They are particularly suited to the growth of the school as we prepare our Sixth Form; James Flitcroft is a local resident and Head of Careers at Latymer Upper School. He also cofounded We Rise, a community business established to empower young people to create successful futures. Daniel Kay spent time on an educational project in Kenya and is now Assistant Vice-President with Bank of America Merrill Lynch. Both will further strengthen our strategic oversight of the school, and the support and challenge we can provide the school leadership team.

I look forward to exciting times ahead for the school.

Dr. Andleeb Ahmed

Chair of Governors



*Source: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/state-funded-schools-inspections-and-outcomes-as-at-31-december-2018/state-funded-schools-inspections-and-outcomes-as-at-31-december-2018>

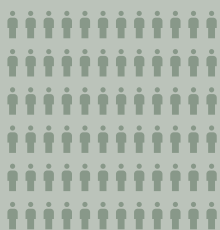
513 STUDENTS



4 INTERNATIONAL TRIPS
INVOLVING 75 STUDENTS



72
STAFF



60
STUDENTS TAKING THE
DUKE OF YORK AWARD

1



OUTSTANDING
OFSTED
JUDGEMENT

1



GOVERNOR AWARD
FOR OUTSTANDING
CONTRIBUTION TO
HARROW SCHOOLS



1

STONEWALL
SCHOOL
CHAMPION
AWARD

12

Q?RIUS
SPEAKERS

0.98 MILES LAST DISTANCE OFFERED
FOR PLACES IN SEPTEMBER 2019



115

STUDENTS INVOLVED
IN 'HAIRSPRAY'

319
STUDENTS

IN

28
SPORTS
TEAMS

15
AWARD WINNERS IN THE UK
INTERMEDIATE MATHS CHALLENGE

12
GOLDEN
TICKET
WINNERS

£1,038
RAISED BY
STUDENTS FOR
5 NATIONAL
CHARITIES

12
STUDENTS GRADUATED
FROM THE SCHOLARS'
PROGRAMME AT
UNIVERSITY OF
OXFORD

42

HEAD'S
CHALLENGE
CLUBS IN
THE SUMMER
TERM

3 NEW TEAMS ON

THE WALL OF FAME

PINNER
HIGH SCHOOL

YEAR

3

PINNER ART

YEAR 7

Year 7 students have made artwork in response to the theme 'Art Forms in Nature'. This has involved making artwork by observing a variety of natural forms. Cacti and microscopic cells have inspired students as they worked on developing their watercolour painting and printmaking skills. Year 7 artists also played around with pattern, symmetry and composition as they created Natural Mandala designs that they then captured as photographs.



"THERE IS A THIRST FOR KNOWLEDGE
AND AN EXCITEMENT ABOUT LESSONS"

OFSTED 'OUTSTANDING' 2019

YEAR 8

Year 8 students explored dynamic methods of representing birds and insects in flight working with mixed media. Students came up with their own unique response to this challenge; they were able to develop energetic and bold pieces of artwork that they built up in layers over several lessons.



YEAR 9

Year 9 Art students responded to a theme of 'Identity' they have worked in many ways over the year; including creating a series of poly-tile prints, creating relief portraits using experimental mixed media and working from observation as they considered how objects might represent aspects of their identity.



STONEWALL SCHOOL CHAMPIONS



Pinner High School has recently received the status of Stonewall School Champions; an exciting part of our continued work as an inclusive school, where every student feels able to achieve their full potential regardless of their gender identity or sexual orientation.

For those unaware of Stonewall, it is an LGBTQ+ rights charity, working across the UK to empower individuals, transform institutions, and to change minds and laws. At Pinner High School we are aiming to continue working alongside this amazing organization, and hope to achieve more of their awards over the coming academic year.

This year we have already been working hard to raise awareness of LGBTQ+ rights, and the support from our students and parents has been fantastic.

As well as classrooms, we have now started to display rainbow flags in the communal areas of the school. This is an important step to making all students feel recognised, supported and valued. We have also been delivering assemblies on LGBTQ+ history and rights.

We have even more initiatives on the way, including an LGBTQ+ Awareness Group, where students can discuss rights, organise events and help steer us towards inclusivity for all; an LGBTQ+ Awareness notice board, to help celebrate achievements; a Staff Equalities Group, which will focus on honing our school policies; and continued staff training to help tackle homophobic and transphobic bullying. Students consistently tell us that they feel very safe at school, but there is more everyone can do to contribute to our positive ethos in and out of school.

"It is very important that our school has started raising awareness about this, because I think that we should feel free to show our individuality."

Evie, Year 7 student

"It was truly amazing how the school has put up Pride flags and held assemblies to create awareness."

Nicola, Year 7 student

"My daughter came home the other day and was so excited and proud to tell me that her school had put the LGBT flag up in EVERY classroom."



A parent on Twitter



When Headteacher Chris Woolf first spoke to members of the community about Pinner High School in the summer of 2015 he was already talking about the role parents would have in setting up the school.

Whilst the school was small, activities were on a small scale, but now student numbers have risen sharply to over 500, the Parents Association has sprung into life! Chair of the first official Pinner High School Parents Association, Jabeen Ahmad writes about the formation of the group and what they have been doing this year.

‘There was an impressive turnout of enthusiastic mums and dads at our first exploratory meeting in February. In addition to asking for committee members, Mr Woolf also set us the challenge of organising the first event in no less than a month! With no time to lose, the PTA committee was set up.

We are all parents who work full-time in finance, IT, pharmaceuticals and law - so multi-tasking is our forte!

We set to work straight away: the name ‘Pinner High School PTA’ was agreed, and Manisha designed our fabulous logo. With the support of a knowledgeable parent we decided to become a registered charity with the Charity Commission and were approved in record time. We found PTA insurance, applied for a bank account and set up our school on the ClassList app. ClassList is a PTA designed, private social media platform for connecting parents and finding volunteers.

We use it to communicate and plan our school events. If you haven't signed up for it yet, please do so. It is free and easy to use.

Our first event was a Quiz Night in March. We were delighted with the turnout: almost 100 people, and nine quiz teams taking part in a lively evening of quizzing. Parents, teachers, and even neighbours of Pinner High School took part which is testament to the community already created by our young school. With creative quiz names such as the ‘Opal Fruits’ the teams were energetic and keen to win.

Lots of laughter, guessing and competition later and the smallest quiz team of 5 put us all to shame by clinching victory. Congratulations! We look forward to the rematch!

We are delighted to support the school in as many ways as we can. The school motto ‘Inspiring Learning’ is one that resonates with us, and we enjoy helping to provide funds to further this aim. We’re planning more events for the future, as well as supporting the school in as many ways as we can. We look forward to seeing you at future events, and welcome whatever support you might be able to offer.’

THE PTA COMMITTEE



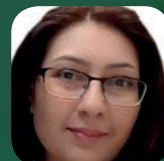
Chair:
Jabeen Ahmad



Co-Chair:
Manisha Patel



Secretary:
Renee Alexis



Treasurer:
Aneela Siddique

PINNER HIGH SCHOOL ADVENTURES

WW1 Battlefields

Reading war poetry in a classroom can be a moving experience; hearing two Pinner High School students read Wilfred Owen's 'The Sentry' to a group of thirty strangers standing only metres away from the battlefield in which the poem's tragic events took place was a moment to remember. Head of English James Allaway writes about this:

It was the second day of the First World War Centenary English Literature Battlefield Tour, a government funded experience for teachers and students across the country. Together with delegates from other schools, we spent three days visiting cemeteries and battlefields across France and Belgium, reading First World War literature and answering thought-provoking questions from our guides: Why was comradeship important for the soldiers? How do First World War writers portray division between the ranks? How did the soldiers' perspectives evolve as the war grew longer?

Ellie Sears and Owen Redhead, who earned their place on the tour through a competitive application process, rose to an emotionally charged tour with maturity, balance and resilience. Their reading of 'The Sentry' was a reminder to all of us on the tour that the experiences of these soldiers, recorded so powerfully in their poems, novels, plays and letters, must be remembered and honoured to ensure that history does not repeat itself. We look forward to sharing the tour with more students in the next academic year.



Parliamentary Visit



China Trip

中国之行很好。第一天我们去了一家餐馆。我们晚上去看了杂技表演。我们早上去了颐和园。我们走了长城。下雪了。我们去看了和尚表演。他们很好也有意思。我们早上在长城上看了日出。



The China trip was very good. On the first day we went to a restaurant. In the evening, we saw an acrobatics performance. We went to the Summer Palace in the morning. We walked on the Great Wall. It was snowing. We went to see a Buddhist acrobatic performance. They were very good and interesting. One morning, we were on the Great Wall to see the sun rise.

Talyr Hughes-Ahmad in Year 9 provides the Mandarin summary of Pinner High's trip to Beijing in April. We had a wonderful time, taking in all the major sights of the city: the Forbidden City, Temple of Heaven, Summer Palace, Olympic Stadium. As well as this we enjoyed a Kung Fu lesson in the park, and went to the most amazing shows in two theatres: an acrobatic show and Kung Fu show. Both were stunning. For many the highlights were the visit to the Chinese school, and spending the night up by the Great Wall. The snow on the wall was very unusual, but lent an air of magic to an already extraordinary experience. Mr. Fang led the trip with great skill, and we are very grateful to have been a part of such a brilliant week. Xie xie!

Ski Trip to Italy



TRAILBLAZERS' REFLECTIONS

When I completed Year 8 I was very excited about the start of my GCSEs. The subjects I picked were Drama, Music, Mandarin and Geography.

Year 9 has been amazing with challenges along the way. It has been great as I still have my friends and I enjoy all my GCSE subjects and they are fun and interesting to learn. The greatest moment for me was getting into the school netball team. I also got help from my music teacher with my piano exam, which made me feel proud.

The next challenge for me is to complete my Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award. Along with this, I want to achieve good grades so I can achieve my dream of going to medical school. To help me achieve this I am an active member of St. John's Ambulance. This year I helped out at the London Marathon.

The things I look forward to in Year 10 are completing my Grade 6 piano exam and I also want to pass my Grade 6 LAMDA exam.

I really enjoy my school. We have great teachers who care for us and want us to succeed.

MALIHA - YEAR 9 STUDENT

After studying for almost a year, Year 9 have settled into our routine of GCSE studies. Our chosen subjects have a vast amount of content. So far I have found GCSEs an enjoyable experience and look forward to continuing the courses. Classes are enjoyable and we are stretched to do challenge tasks which will further our knowledge. Being able to have extensive understanding of a topic is a wonderful thing.

Apart from having a lot of content to remember, it can become hard to complete all of the homework to a high standard when there is so much to complete every week. There is not always enough time to do things that we would like to do but we are always able to spend time with friends at break, lunch and lesson 7 during Head's Challenge Clubs.

GCSEs can be stressful. Some of us may also worry that we will struggle to retain this information for the next few years but we are learning a variety of different ways to revise and how to take notes effectively, which will help when it comes to revising.

Our February mid-term exams gave us our first real taste of what exam situations are like and how we should revise and work towards them. During this process we experienced revision methods in class and how to revise effectively at home. We saw how strict exam conditions are and how they can affect focus and hard work.

Overall, Year 9 has taught us what is in store for the coming years. Lessons have been enjoyable and thrilling, making content easier to retain.

LUCY - YEAR 9 STUDENT

**"PUPILS' PERSONAL
DEVELOPMENT IS
EXCELLENT"**

OFSTED 'OUTSTANDING' 2019



“TEACHERS ENTHUSIASM FOR THEIR SUBJECTS IS INFECTIOUS AND INSPIRES STUDENTS TO LEARN”

OFSTED ‘OUTSTANDING’ 2019



TOP MARKS



The Scholars' Programme is a scheme run by the Brilliant Club. The aim of the Club is to increase the number of high achieving students applying for places at highly selective 'Russell Group' universities by engaging in sessions run by a PhD tutor.

Pinner High School has some very able students, so this programme is one Shreena Amrania was keen to run following her appointment as Stretch and Challenge Coordinator, with responsibility for high achieving students. Aidan Zani, a Year 9 student on the course, writes below about the opportunities that he enjoyed on it. The assignment students wrote stretched them to meet assessment criteria that had more in common with an undergraduate than a GCSE student. All students felt it was a highly rewarding experience. It was really pleasing to see all of those involved 'graduate' from the programme at Wadham College, at the University of Oxford. Huge congratulations to those students.

Aidan writes: 'Along with twelve other Stretch and Challenge students at Pinner High School, I took part in the Scholars' Programme, a challenging course aimed at giving us the skills necessary to thrive in a university environment and advice on how we can progress to higher education in the future if we wish to do so.'

The programme began with a trip to King's College London, during which we received a tour of the university, learned note-taking skills and were informed about what we would be studying during the course.

Pinner High School received the topic of 'Stigma in Mental Health'. We began our course soon after and, in university-style tutorial sessions held over 6 weeks, we learned about the effects of stereotypes, prejudice and discrimination to the mentally ill. At the end of the course we were given a 2500 word assignment in which we would use the knowledge we gained throughout the Scholars' Programme to write a piece exploring stigma in mental health, in the style of a university dissertation. We received our results when our PhD tutor returned to school a few weeks later. I was particularly pleased that my dissertation was graded as a 'First' which is the top mark a degree can be awarded.

At the end of the programme we visited the University of Oxford, which is currently ranked as the best university in the world. We attended a ceremony where we received our certificates and were given a tour of Wadham College, as well as a talk detailing the opportunities that attending university could open for us. I would advise that all students considering applying to the Scholars' Programme should do so, as it can act as a stepping stone towards enrolling in higher education in a few years' time, and all the possibilities and opportunities that brings.'



**"RIGHT ACROSS THE CURRICULUM,
PUPILS MAKE EXCELLENT PROGRESS"**

OFSTED 'OUTSTANDING' 2019

“

I am very pleased to come full circle and finish my teaching career back at the beginning

LESLEY SAWYER

”

The Last word

Teacher Feature - Lesley Sawyer

Teaching comes full circle. I never dreamt when I embarked on my teaching career as a fresh faced PE teacher in 1974 that I would still be teaching in 2019. Where have the 45 years in between gone? I started out at a brand new school in Brent with just one year of students called William Gladstone High School. This was an innovation at the time, a natural growth school. Sounds familiar?

I taught PE there very happily, progressing to Head of Department and eventually Head of Year, seeing the first year of students through to the sixth form until I left to start my own family. I returned to teaching at Wembley High School and then Preston Manor High School where I remained for fifteen years. I then ran a provision for students who had been excluded from mainstream education at London Academy until I thought it was time to retire from teaching and devote more time to reducing my golf handicap.

The retirement phase, however, was very short lived as I heard of a new high school which was opening in Pinner. It was opening with just one year group of students, a natural growth school for the increasing demographic need for school places in the area. I had read about an inspirational Headteacher who had a wonderful ethos and some really good innovative ideas to grow this new school to be the best in the borough.

I wrote to Chris Woolf to see if there were any posts available. I told him I had lived in Pinner for over forty years and had a varied career in teaching but wondered whether he needed an 'old hand' to help with his new trailblazers. He made a good decision!

At first I was appointed as a Cover Supervisor, stepping in when class teachers were on training courses or out of school. During the first half term the school was open I was here almost every day even when no cover was needed, as there was so much to do. It felt like 1974 again; so much going on and so much excitement for the future. I think I have covered every subject the school offers- my Mandarin is in need of some development- though my love of PE means I still frequently take teams out to fixtures, and support Mr. Surridge as his team photos spread across the Wall of Fame.

I will get round to retiring again at some point, but there is such a buzz around the school that I'm in no hurry to do so just yet. I am very pleased to come full circle and finish my teaching career back at the beginning: in a brilliant new school, just like the one that got me into teaching in the first place.

Then



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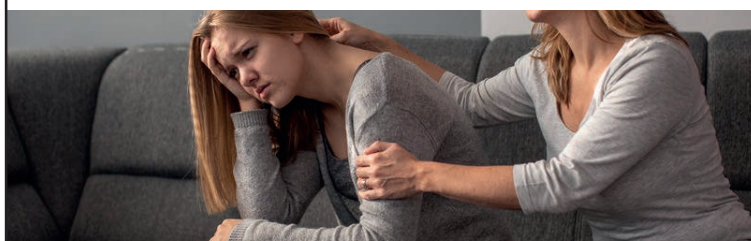


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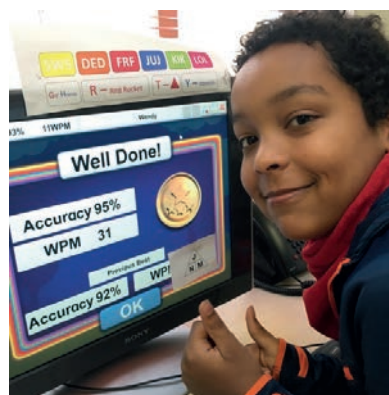
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