

INSPIRING LEARNING ISSUE 09 / SUMMER 2023 www.pinnerhighschool.org

Raj Patel HEADTEACHER

As our school continues to grow, we've seen unprecedented demand for Year 7 places for the new school year. This is testament to the supportive and inclusive learning environment we offer - a place where all pupils uphold our values of 'Inspiring Learning'.

Starting secondary school can be an unsettling time for children, especially when it comes to friendships. Some pupils may miss close friends who are attending different schools and others may feel daunted at the prospect of making new friends in an unfamiliar environment. We're proud to support students through this transition process, offering empathy and warmth as they build new friendships and embark on their career at Pinner High School.

Facilitating diversity, equity and inclusion remains a big priority for the teaching team. It's our commitment to offer a safe and welcoming environment for children from all backgrounds, ethnicities and abilities.

We've maintained our open, outward facing approach to communication - making good use of our new communication systems to maintain an open dialogue with parents. We also encourage pupils, parents and teachers to continue the equality conversation beyond the school day.

In Year 13 news, we're delighted that a number of our students have received offers from leading UK universities, including;

University of Cambridge to study Mathematics University of Warwick to study Computer Science Imperial University to study Chemical Engineering Loughborough University to read History Lancaster University to read Law University of Nottingham to study Pharmacy

I'm delighted that students continue to enjoy the range of enrichment activities on offer, with each pupil taking part in at least two clubs per week. These activities offer whole child development, across the fields of creativity, sports and the community.

I'm also particularly proud of our Summer School which offers incoming Year 7 pupils the opportunity to spend a few days exploring the school without other year groups around. This provides a sense of familiarity when they start school in September which helps the transition process.

Moving forward, we'll continue our efforts across all these key areas, with myself, staff, pupils and parents all working together to create a positive and inclusive learning environment for everyone to enjoy.

Year 7 comments

"I like the fact that we have Google classroom which informs us when our homework is due and what is to be included. The majority of teachers give us the option to complete the homework online or by hand."

Mya

"The school is inclusive for all genders and races. Every pupil is pushed to be their absolute best. There are many clubs too, including Football and Design and Technology." Pranav

"Pinner High is an amazing school

with lots of opportunities and fun.

All the teachers are kind and you

will make lots of new friends."

Ethan

"Choosing this school was the right decision for me. I want to be a lawyer when I am older so I need to know what is right from wrong, as seen from many perspectives."

Anisa

"The school offers a Mandarin excellence programme where you can learn about Chinese culture. There is also an opportunity to visit London China Town and go on a trip to China."

Armaan

"Pinner High is accepting and the teachers care for each one of the students. There are opportunities to do exciting things and have fun

Nathan

We have had a busy few weeks in the Art department running clay workshops. Year 7 artists have used organic forms to make clay relief tiles, taking inspiration from a range of artists: sculptures by Veronica Ryan and Ernst Haeckel's studies of Art Forms in Nature.

Year 10 have designed and made abstract sculptures using a pinch pot base to explore shape and form in unusual ways. Students have really challenged themselves to come up with exciting work using the clay techniques they have been experimenting with.

In addition to our students' super achievements, we recently had a successful clay session for staff as part of wellbeing week, giving us all an opportunity to show our creative side!



Our Year 11 Drama students are currently working on their Component 2 exam - Performance From Texts. This unit requires them to bring a script to life in a naturalistic or abstract style. Year 10 students are working on Claire Dowie's 'Adult Child/Dead Child'. In the image shown, students are experimenting with physical theatre, chorus, gesture, trust falls, lifts and many more abstract techniques! With mock performances, GCSEs and theatre visits, our Drama students are kept very busy!



Orchestra, mini bands and Glee Club continue with much enthusiasm, along with rehearsals for our summer production of Matilda! PHS have many talented students - so many that we are using two casts for two separate performances!

Music trips

Choir at St Albans

London Symphony Orchestra at the Barbican

Tour and workshop at the Royal Albert Hall

Theatre trips

Congratulations to

Year 10 student Aliyah P who has won the Watford Blues and Ragtime competition!



Choir and mini band



Harrow Music Service Band Festival at the Harrow

The launch of whole school orchestra

Wind band festival

Individual instrument and vocal lessons



Year 8 airls came second in the Indoor Athletics competition

Year 8 Netball Team beat Nower Hill 18-3

KS4 Girls Football

team are into the

Cross Country Team

Great results from the Cross Country Team at the Harrow Borough Championship held at Harrow on School on in January. The standout performance came from Leo W in Year 7 who came first in the Minor Boys category. This is an amazing achievement and is our first victory in this race after 5 years of trying. Kieran B in Year 9 ran a close second in the Junior Boys category, a great achievement in itself. Overall, from a total of 24 runners from Years 7-11, 8 qualified to represent Harrow at the Middlesex Championships next week. This is a fantastic achievement and something we should all be proud of.

8 runners came in the top ten of their respective races and as a result they were all selected to represent Harrow Borough in the Middlesex County Championships:

Ethan D Alex P Kieran B Ilayda B Mouaaz S Joseph T

8 students made the Harrow X-country squad for the county race.







Year 7 girls won the Indoor Athletics

competition

Year 7 students won the Indoor Athletics trials in both the boys and girls category and we have had students podium placed in Cross Country



On 2 February some of our Year 10 Chemistry students travelled to the University of Oxford.

They listened to a presentation introducing Oxford, the collegiate system, its courses and opportunities and then toured St. John's College. Following a Q&A with a current student, they participated in a GCSE Chemistry challenge run by the Chemistry department. Students also got to meet a mixture of undergraduates as well as students completing their post doc. A thoroughly enjoyable trip providing an excellent insight into life at the University of Oxford.

Year 13 Physics student, Talhat AJ,

won a national competition from

the Institute of Physics called the





'Quantum on the Clock'. He had to put together a video explaining an aspect of Quantum Physics in under 3 minutes. He won a cash prize and attended an event at Nottingham University.



Year 10 students have been working on a storage product inspired by architecture and have also completed a lighting project.

Year 9 students have been developing their knowledge and skills with wood joints and creating a wooden pencil box demonstrating 4 different wood joints.



Year 11 and Year 13 students have been working hard to complete their final products for their course and have produced many wonderful designs and outcomes.



Year 12 students went on a primary research trip to visit London's architectural landmarks and The British Museum.

Be Kind Mars Ambassador School



As part of being a Be Kind Ambassador School we have been nominated for a Be Kind Star School Award. We have submitted feedback on how our school promotes kindness and the impact this has had on the school, the community and its pupils. Year 8 students were asked to submit their responses – here are some that have been received;

How our school promotes kindness:

- When ordering lunch, we show kindness to the lunch ladies
- Teachers are nice in the hallway and every day they say aood morning
- We promote kindness by engaging students to join different groups, eq, PE, homework and LGBTQ+
- We have many assemblies and form lessons about showing acts of kindness and friendship
- PHS has promoted kindness by ensuring that bad situations are handled effectively and with a positive outcome
- We show equality in lessons and don't let anyone feel left out
- We have a Kindness Award so when students are really kind throughout the week they are awarded one. This makes people become more dedicated to being kind

The impact this has had on the school, the community and its pupils:

- It has given students the chance to come out of their comfort zone, thus creating a confidence boost which is a key skill for the future, eg, for job interviews
- My school environment feels a safe and secure place
- People are more aware of their actions and show a better attitude towards one another.
- Everyone feels like they are treated the same way and know that who they are won't affect how they are treated. In a better or worse way.



We have had the first two students in the school receive 300 House points! Dylan P and Rylan D - outstanding!

The Supreme Court Trip

Whilst studying the Sociology unit of 'Crime and Deviance' the Year 13 Sociology students attended a workshop, exhibition and tour of the Supreme Court. The students debated a discrimination case that was put forward in relation to a bakery refusing to make a LGBT+ positive cake which went against the owner's Christian values. Students explored the history of the Supreme Court and the current judges amending legislation. Three courtrooms were visited whilst exploring the unique architecture and displays encouraging women to pursue higher roles in the British criminal justice system.



English

Year 9 and 10 students interested in journalism and social activism had the exciting opportunity of meeting Phil Lawder, a published novelist and editor of The Villager magazine. These students were invited to contribute to the March edition of the magazine, exploring the theme of community in Pinner. In this session students brainstormed in small groups and pitched their ideas to Phil. We look forward to seeing their work published early next year.

One of our Year 7 students submitted an excellent piece of work into the Young Writers 1000 challenge. Isobel R's story 'Emma's Flame' has been selected to be included in their annual showcase.

A copy of the book will be kept in the British Library.



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We are celebrating a number of university offers our Year 13 students have received. These include:





Imperial College To study

Loughborough **University**

Chemical Engineering

To study Computer Science

To read History



To read Law



To study



Pharmacy



British Mathematical Olympia

Year 13 students Vlad and Saad achieved a Certificate of Merit in British Mathematical Olympiad 1. Only high scorers from the Senior Maths Challenge would participate in this gruelling 3.5 hour paper. They have worked very hard to get a certification and this is extremely difficult to achieve. They deserve all the credit for their hard work.

had the opportunity to tour the Houses of Parliament. They viewed the House of Commons in action debating the current workforce crisis in the NHS, as well as how pharmacists might be deployed in working in the community via diabetes and hypertension clinics. A whislestop tour of the House of Lords to listen to a debate on carbon emissions, with an emergency tabled debate on prison population. Students were joined by our MP David Simmonds to follow up questions about how these two houses differed. Students also participated in a workshop looking at how think tanks and pressure groups work within our democracy to lever influence and generate change.

Our Sixth Form Politics students recently



In January the very first group of Year 13 A Level Science students known as the trailblazers had the opportunity to fly to Geneva, Switzerland to visit some famous scientific institutions and landmarks.

On the first day we made our way to the United Nations. The experience was phenomenal, from taking in the beauty of various rooms to learning about the 12 sustainable development goals - it was truly an awesome experience.

Day 2 we made our way to CERN for a guided tour where we learned about the Synchro-Cyclotron built in 1957, it was CERN's first particle accelerator. It provided beams for CERN's first experiments in particle and nuclear physics. We were taught by a Physics expert about the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) which is the world's largest and

highest energy particle collider.

In the afternoon we visited the Red Cross Museum. We were introduced to the history of the Red Cross and learnt how the organisation has greatly helped millions of people around the world. The museum had lots of cool exhibits, art work and videos which really brought the experiences to life.

During our stay at the hotel we had a great time in the evenings as we could all play together in the games lounge. It had a pool table, table football and a ping pong table. This gave us a lot of time to

socialise, bond with one another and create lovely memories. It was a chance for us to enjoy our time with each other and made the trip really special, as this is our last year of secondary school.

On the final day, we travelled a little outside the centre of Geneva and viewed the beautiful sceneru of the lake surrounded by snowcapped mountains. After taking a lot of photos. and videos we made our way to the airport where we were greeted with a vast variety of Swiss shops and restaurants.

Josh K (A Level scientist)



Inclusion Team

This term the Inclusion department welcomed staff from Bushey Meads School to meet with students and tour the school. This was an excellent opportunity to share ideas and to continue networking with various schools to develop and build on the provision we have at PHS.

The SEND cooking club returned this term for some students and they have been working hard making wonderful dishes such as cheesy nachos!

Intervention sessions are run in areas such as reading comprehension, foundation numeracy skills, social skills and revision.



