

# PINNER

## HIGH SCHOOL

# INSPIRING LEARNING

ISSUE 3 SUMMER 2017

*in the  
news...*

IN THIS  
ISSUE

**Heart** of the  
Community

**HEAD ON**  
ONE YEAR INTO  
THE HEAD'S  
CHALLENGE

# INSPIRING LEARNING



**'Inspiring Learning' started life on a shortlist of school mottos on my first outing as Headteacher, shortly after my appointment in June 2015. Governors had organised a meeting with the local community to update them on progress with their new project, and wanted me to come along. I had no idea what they had in mind, how many people would attend, or what was expected. But first impressions are important ones, and I wanted to make sure that this meeting would demonstrate what the community should expect from Pinner High School.**

People just kept coming and coming through the school gates, until over two hundred of them sat expectantly in the school hall. As an unoccupied building at the time, to be so suddenly full of life seemed as unfamiliar to the space as being introduced as the Headteacher of Pinner High School did to me. We both wear it more comfortably now. It was immediately clear how much support there was- and is- for the school, and the inclusive ethos Governors were so keen on. I wanted to bring that inclusion to life at the meeting, and did so by asking those assembled to vote for the school motto. Perhaps not the most important decision made before the school opened, but one that resonates through all that we do. The voting is a tangible statement of how the school involves the community. 'Inspiring Learning' was the clear winner. As an English teacher, the double meaning always appealed to me: students should expect inspiring lessons, but they should see it as a responsibility to inspire learning in others too.

And now? As the first year in the life of Pinner High School reaches a crescendo (I nearly said 'as the school year draws to a close' but that sounds far too passive, at Pinner High it just builds and builds) 'Inspiring Learning' is a great deal more than a line written into our school vision statement. Students and staff bring 'Inspiring Learning' to life in their everyday interactions. It is visible in the way students say they enjoy their lessons, the care and excitement with which teachers plan them, and the dedication with which support staff go above and beyond behind the scenes. Setting fire to methane bubbles in your hands at lunchtime during Science week is one of the more practical ways of showing what 'Inspiring Learning' has come to mean. So are the opportunities available to students outside the classroom; whole year group visits to Hillingdon Outdoor Activity centre, the Science Museum's Wonder Lab, Shakespeare's Globe and the British Library. Not many places can take the whole school on a trip, and doing so four times over only proves this point.

And what of other sources of inspiration? A very well qualified staff, and a comprehensive approach to professional development. Support in that professional development from the Harrow Academies Trust, the Harrow Collegiate Teaching School Alliance, the Cannons Park Alliance, Governors, the Harrow School Improvement Partnership, the Princes Teaching Institute. School leaders also contribute to these programmes, and I have enjoyed speaking about the school in presentations at two national conferences, at the Excel arena in London and the NEC in Birmingham. Inspiring Learning covers all members of our community.

And so back to the community who blew the cobwebs away from the school hall back in June 2015. Now, they have been augmented by two thousand people a week reading the school blog. Reading how in the same school hall this term students heard about opportunities to visit Spain, China and Costa Rica on school visits over the next two years. They hear how an overwhelming number of our students are on track to meet or exceed their very ambitious end of year targets in each subject, well above national and local benchmarks. All this brings life to 'Inspiring Learning' in ways I could have only hoped two years ago. Whilst end of Year 7 targets are useful milestones, the remainder of the school vision statement that follows 'Inspiring Learning' brings our future challenges sharply into focus: "We will equip our students with an understanding of themselves, an appreciation of the world around them and a desire to innovate and solve problems as active contributors to society." This part of the statement is still in the future tense. It probably always will be.

*Chris Woolf* Headteacher

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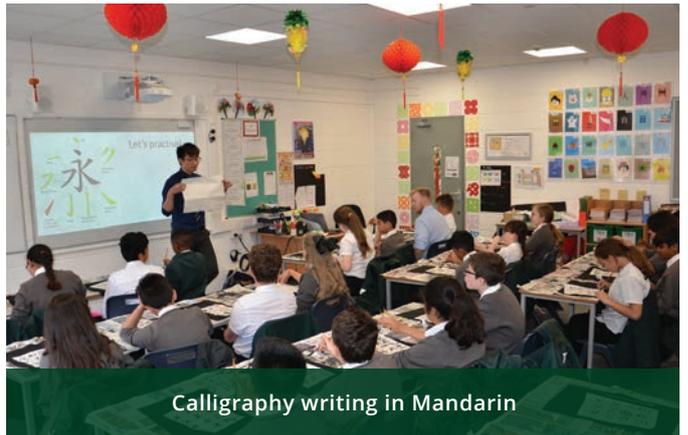
First Cricket Team



Hard at work in Art and Design



CSI Science



Calligraphy writing in Mandarin

# INSPIRING LEARNING AT SCHOOL



Chinese New Year Kung Fu



Victorious Netball Team



Explosive Science Week



Spelling Bee House Event



CHURCH VISIT



SKI TRIP



# PINNER HIGH SCHOOL ADVENTURES

'MAPPING OUR WORLD' WORKSHOPS AT THE BRITISH LIBRARY



GLOBE TRIP



ACTIVITY WEEK



# BRAVE NEW WORLD

The trailblazing families of our first students made a bold decision: to send their child to a school that at the time did not exist, with no track record and no existing parents or students to talk to about the school. Here, three families talk about why they chose Pinner High School for their children, and how they feel one year on.

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“My family chose Pinner High School because we liked the fresh ethos of the headmaster and a brand new school will be doing their utmost to help their students succeed. After all, a school's success is judged by the government on how successful their students are. A brand new school also attracts the best teachers as it gives them unparalleled career opportunities and the extra satisfaction of being able to shape something from the very beginning.

The first year at Pinner High has been pleasing. The school has listened to parents and governors and been very responsive to suggestions. The regular coffee and chat sessions with the Headmaster have really helped this process.

My child has particularly enjoyed the fun approach to learning and the plentiful snacks on offer at break times!

To any family considering Pinner High I would say don't worry that there are no GCSE or A level results to judge by. The fact that the children describe the school as 'fun' means that this attitude to learning will ensure eventual exam success. More than that though, the ethos of Pinner High means that they are developing well rounded citizens of the future with innovative subjects such as mindfulness and yoga and integration and teambuilding events such as days out to the Hillingdon Outdoor Activities Centre, PGL and activity week. Making the move to secondary school was a stressful time for us as we really wanted to make the right choice for our son's academic and personal development. We are really pleased with our choice. Pinner High is a like a breath of fresh air.

Three words to sum up the trailblazing year at Pinner High: innovative, informative, inclusive.”

*Mr. Chamberlain*

“

“Our family chose Pinner High School because after meeting the Headmaster, and speaking to members of the leadership and teaching team, we felt utterly convinced that our child would be in very able and responsible hands. We were convinced that they were people who would strive to ensure that our child fulfilled his true potential. We felt that they were determined to provide a first class education and to instil pivotal values and an ethos which would serve him well as he develops into a responsible adult. Indeed we have not been disappointed.

The first year at Pinner High has been a mind-expanding, intellectually-challenging and horizon-broadening, which has formed treasured memories and positive attitudes. My child has particularly enjoyed the challenge of new subjects like Mandarin and Spanish and has savoured the opportunity of working with his fellow team members to form and improve the school football team.

To any family considering Pinner High I would say come and meet the Headmaster, meet the leadership team and teachers and pose your myriad of questions. Talk to other parents at the school and to the current students- you will see that Pinner High is indeed a unique blend of highly committed, inspiring staff and pupils who are excited about what they have learnt and are chomping at the bit to learn further.

I would sum up the trailblazing year at Pinner High by saying: Work diligently, play with your whole being and watch your child blossom.”

*Mr and Mrs Hughes Ahmad*



# GOVERNOR VIEW

**DAME REENA KEEBLE**

**Pinner High School benefits from a very experienced Governing Body. The Harrow Academies Trust, made up of the Heads of the other schools in Harrow, appointed the first Governing Body of the school prior to opening. Trustees maintain a close eye on the school, and receive reports and updates from the governors. Now the school is open there are parent governors and a staff governor, and more community governors too. Dame Reena Keeble is one of the founding community governors, she was Headteacher at Cannon Lane for 23 years, and now consults on significant projects for the Department for Education. Here she reflects on the opening year at Pinner High School.**

“

“We were impressed by Mr Woolf’s vision of an exciting future ahead in preparing the children to tackle the challenges of the 21st-century. We were particularly drawn by the compulsory extra curricular clubs and the choice of languages on offer. Being a small school we felt assured that our child would have a high level of personal attention.

The first year at Pinner High School has been an adventure and we, as parents, are kept informed about the school life via the headteacher’s weekly blogs.

Our child has particularly enjoyed representing Pinner High school in various sporting competitions. Learning Spanish has been fun as has been carrying out science experiments. He was ‘wowed’ by the African drumming sessions as well.

To any family considering Pinner High School, we would say come and see the unique opportunity Pinner High school has to offer and get on board to share the experience.

In three words, Pinner High School: Opportunities, Buzzing, Inclusive.”

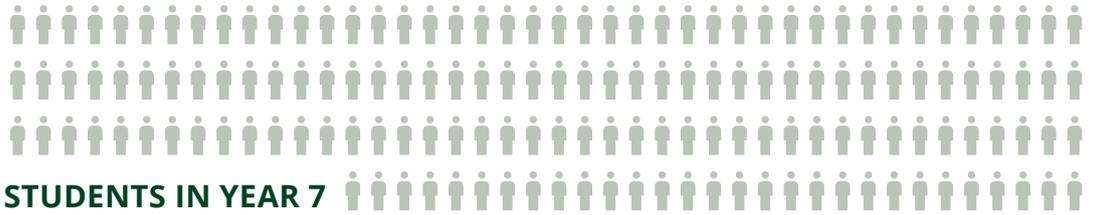
*Mr. and Mrs. Dhanani*

This year has just simply flown. It only seems a few weeks ago we were appointing staff, talking about school uniform and planning for the opening! And here we are, at the end of a very successful first year at Pinner High School. There have been so many highlights during the year but for me, two in particular stand out. The first has got to be the first day the students arrived at school way back in September 2016 and, whilst I was not there to witness it personally, hearing about it from a very excited and happy Headteacher and seeing the video was wonderful. The second highlight for me happened when I was visiting the school on a governor visit. I was so impressed by the students’ learning behaviour, their manners and most importantly of all, the joy on their faces. This was really apparent during a PE Lesson, it sent goose bumps all down my spine.

As governors, we have worked hard to support and challenge the school to continually to improve on its own personal best. This has involved looking at lots of information about the school, undertaking school visits, asking probing questions at our governors’ meetings and reading a great number of documents. Our monitoring of the school is rigorous and we believe it is having a positive impact on outcomes for our students. It is a privilege to be a member of the governing body and contributing to the success of Pinner High School. We are so very much looking forward to welcoming our new Year 7s and, of course having our Year 8s. It is going to be another fantastic year.

# 155

STUDENTS IN YEAR 7



# 22

MEMBERS OF STAFF

# 100%

OF STUDENTS INVOLVED IN HOUSE EVENTS



# 2.56

LAST DISTANCE OFFERED ON NATIONAL OFFER DAY FOR SEPTEMBER 2017 ENTRY

# 10 WICKETS

THE VICTORY MARGIN IN OUR FIRST BOYS CRICKET MATCH

# 4,619

VIEWS OF OUR FACEBOOK PAGE DURING ACTIVITY WEEK

# 100%

OF STUDENTS TAKING THE HEAD'S CHALLENGE

# 18

DIFFERENT HEAD'S CHALLENGE ACTIVITIES EVERY WEEK IN THE SUMMER TERM

# 30

PINNER HIGH SCHOOL VALUES AWARDS PRESENTED TO STUDENTS

# 25

STUDENT APPLICATIONS FOR GOVERNMENT

# 117

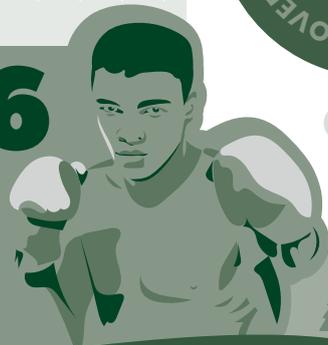
APPLICATIONS TO WORK AT PINNER HIGH FROM SEPTEMBER

# 791

APPLICATIONS FOR PLACES IN SEPTEMBER 2017

# 5,246

HOUSE POINTS AWARDED IN OUR FIRST TWO TERMS



# 27

VARIETIES PLANTED BY ENVIRONMENTAL CLUB

# PINNER HIGH SCHOOL

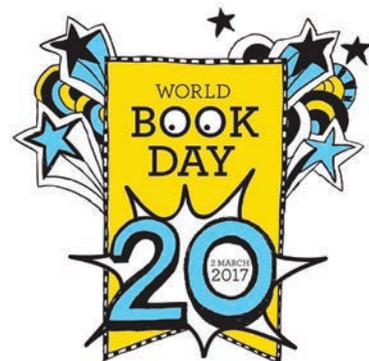


# TRAILBLAZING YEAR

# READING AT PINNER HIGH SCHOOL



Academic studies continue to show that reading is one of the single most important factors in a young person's development. Ofsted comment, in a document unlikely to make it into many holiday reading lists, that 'there is a growing body of evidence which illustrates the importance of reading for pleasure for both educational purposes as well as personal development' (cited in Clark and Rumbold 2006). Pinner High School's translation: 'not only is it good for you, it is also fun'. With a Headteacher who is also an English teacher (who teaches the whole of Year 7 by teaching each Year 7 class for half a term) and a passionate Head of English in Mr. Allaway, it is no surprise that reading has already been noted as a strength of the school by visiting inspectors.



"Reading at Pinner High School started before we even joined the school. When we had induction day, we all got given a book to read over the summer. When we came back, in English we were studying the book. This was really good as all of us were at the same point by reading 'Wonder' by RJ Palacio (the book we were reading) over the summer. Having read the book, we then discussed the themes, characters and ideas. There was a lot of benefits to this because all of us knew what the book was and what happened in it. 'Wonder' is about someone who was starting secondary school, and the particular difficulties he had to overcome. Therefore, it was a good book to start off with in our first half term unit on trailblazers in literature" notes Khushal in 7AX. "The next text we looked at was by Malala Yousafzai, who we named one of our Houses after, so that was good too."

Deanna in 7AX says "There are many opportunities to take part in many reading activities at Pinner High such as reading club and the reading challenge. Reading club is a club held by Mr Allaway where you can talk about books and vote for which book is the best. The reading challenge is a challenge open to all students at Pinner High and you have to read a list of books and write reviews in order to earn house points."

"Carnegie Club has been a good opportunity to share my opinions of certain books and discuss whether we agree with the conclusions of top class book reviewers. The Carnegie Medal is a national prize given to the writer of the best children's book of the year, as decided by a judging panel.

We shadow this panel and decide what we think of all the books. Also I have learnt a lot from these books as they are specifically catered to children, so as you would expect these books play out many scenarios and expand my vocabulary. I was surprised at how much fun it was, the books are kids books so there are many jokes to be made. Half of the time I leave having cried from laughter! It also opened many opportunities for kids like me. On the announcement day of the winner, there is an event where many readers like myself come together to discuss our opinions and expand our horizons. My favourite part of this club was reviewing the books with my friends joking about them but still making our opinions clear," says Alex in 7BY.

Nathan in 7MY says "Some students in the reading group had the chance to see a performance adapted from 'Refugee Boy' the novel by Benjamin Zephania, at the Chicken Shed Theatre. I thought it was great as it is a genre I am not familiar with which intrigued me even more. I liked how the actor who played Alem knew Ethiopia which added to the authenticity. I didn't like some of the changes they made from the book- books are better!"



# HEAD ON ONE YEAR INTO THE HEAD'S CHALLENGE

The Head's Challenge unites the school's House Events, twice weekly Clubs, outdoor adventures and charity work. It is a programme of personal challenge that encourages each student to push themselves to explore new activities and broaden their horizons. It is a way for students to exhibit the Pinner High School Values, and bring 'Inspiring Learning' to life in and out of the classroom. Students have embraced the Head's Challenge to such an extent that higher levels of awards have been added during the year, and every single student is on track to complete at least the Pearl Award by the end of the academic year.

So why has this been such a success? A great deal of enthusiasm was generated during the first school trip to the Hillingdon Outdoor Activity Centre, which every child took part in back in September and this momentum has continued all year. The inclusive school ethos is such that every child is expected to take part, and all rise to this challenge and support each other in the process. However, the greatest factor in the success of the Head's Challenge is the range of Clubs on offer to the students every week. Many schools offer after school activities; few insist on every student taking part in two different ones every week.

In the first half of the summer term, 18 different clubs were available every week. This range of activities was recognised in a Pearson Teaching Award Certificate of Excellence for the Clubs Leaders in the Outstanding School Team of the Year category. As this is a national prize open to over 5,000 schools, this is a brilliant achievement which gets to the heart of the school: dedicated teachers putting on high quality learning opportunities for all students, week in week out. The students frequently talk about how much they enjoy these activities when meeting with governors and feeding back about the school. The Head's Challenge also provides a vehicle for students to make a charitable contribution. This year funds have been raised for Jeans for Genes Day, the Poppy Appeal, Children in Need, Comic Relief and Great Ormond Street Hospital. As the school grows and the students get older, they will be able to volunteer their time as well as give money and so further develop the scope of this aspect of the Head's Challenge.



**THE SEVEN CHALLENGES**

THE OUTDOOR ADVENTURE CHALLENGE

THE COMMUNITY CHALLENGE

THE SPORTS CHALLENGE

## CHALLENGES COMPLETED

## AWARD LEVEL

2 Challenges	Pearl Award
4 Challenges	Ruby Award
7 Challenges	Diamond Award
One student	The Head's Outstanding Participation Award

## HEAD'S CHALLENGE CLUBS FROM THE YEAR

- ART
- ATHLETICS
- BASKETBALL
- BIKE IT
- BOLLYWOOD DANCING
- BUGSY MALONE
- CARNEGIE AWARD SHADOWING
- CHINESE CALLIGRAPHY
- CHINESE
- CHINESE FILM CLUB
- CREATIVE WRITING
- CRICKET
- DEBATE GROUP
- DRAGONS' DEN
- DRAMA
- ENVIRONMENTAL
- FASHION
- FOOTBALL
- GOLF
- GUITAR
- GYMNASTICS
- INTERNATIONAL
- CHOIR
- KARAOKE
- MINDFULNESS
- NETBALL
- READING
- ROCK BAND
- SCIENCE
- SPANISH FILM
- STRETCH AND CHALLENGE
- TABLE TENNIS
- TENNIS
- TFL ENTREPRENEURS

THE ARTS  
CHALLENGE

THE SKILLS  
CHALLENGE

THE INNOVATOR  
CHALLENGE

THE CREATIVITY  
CHALLENGE



# in the news...

**Chris Woolf is headteacher at Pinner High School in Harrow, and will be speaking in Bett 2017's Learn Live Secondary Schools Arena.**

[sec-ed.co.uk](http://sec-ed.co.uk)



## What's not TO LIKE?

For many years mobile phones were banned in the classroom, and in plenty of schools this is still the case. And while a lot of teachers and leaders are now starting to recognise the potential benefits of Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) practices, and becoming more lenient about the use of mobile phones and tablets in the classroom, social media is still very often the elephant in the room.

*Chris Woolf explains why his school is embracing the social media revolution - [teachwire.net](http://teachwire.net)*



## Gold winning entry in the Harrow Walk to School Month Poetry Competition.

A £50 voucher and £500 for the school to promote healthy and sustainable travel.



## My Journey to School

By Thalia Jordan, Age 11, 7AY

I nod my head,  
I click my feet,  
I'm not long out of bed,  
I need more sleep!  
My earphones are in,  
My music is on,  
I hope the bus isn't long.



Finally it come creeping over the hill,  
Was this machine dragged out of bed against its will,  
My card scans and I wearily sit down,  
Sleepily faking a lazy look around.

With a sigh I relax and melt into my seat,  
The hum of the engine coaxing me softly back to sleep.

# GET SOCIAL

Follow us @pinnerhighsc

Delighted everyone enjoyed the day! Check out our other activities and workshops for children and young people [heathrobinsonmuseum.org/watson](http://heathrobinsonmuseum.org/watson) @hrobinsonmuseum

Brilliant to see @pinnerhighsc playing in the Middlesex Schools 20/20 at @PinnerCC today! Great community relations being built @MiddlesexCB @fulhamcricket

Great 2 days at #bettacademies @EducationShow thanks to all our speakers @toadmeister @imagineBOA @pinnerhighsc @DixonsMP @UoBSchool @theNSN

So excited - my son has been accepted into this amazing new school @aliza\_qureshi

I saw the kids walking back to school after the trip. They were so well behaved. A credit to themselves and the school @bktilona

The #headteacher @pinnerhighsc will show schools how to make the most of social media today at 1:30pm in Learn Live: Secondary #Bett2017 @Bett\_show

Today we have packaged up sunflower seeds for @pinnerhighsc #TheBigSunflowerProject @The\_Info\_Point

# Heart of the Community



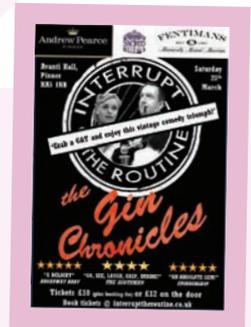
**'An inclusive school for the whole community' is a phrase that appeared in the original documents about Pinner High School submitted to the Department for Education back in 2014.**

Now that the school is open, we have worked hard to bring the community to the school for a range of events. We are always delighted to host the Old Pinner Students Association annual reunion, that takes place on the first Saturday of May. As this is the 80th anniversary of the first opening of Pinner County School, the event was especially well attended this year. Pinner High is very grateful to the Association for donating the House Cup to the school, to bring together those who attended the school from 1937-1982. As all students at Pinner High will compete for the Cup, and a third of them will win it every year, this is a very fitting award that celebrates the past, present and future of the school.



Pinner High School has invited a range of Primary schools to visit this year, for a range of activities. Cannon Lane and West Lodge have enjoyed the high quality Science provision from our specialist teachers, while Reddiford and St. John Fisher joined them to compete for the inaugural Maths Challenge for Year 5 students. This was a great opportunity for the trailblazing Pinner High School students to act as role models for the younger competitors.

The Performing Arts are a strength at Pinner High School, and with a fabulous theatre in the school bringing professional theatre to the community has been a real pleasure. 'Interrupt the Routine' have presented two episodes of their award winning 'Gin Chronicles' vintage style comedy show. They won rave reviews at the Edinburgh Fringe, and will be back with us in the autumn.



## FOR HIRE

**We are fortunate to have such high quality facilities open to the whole community in these ways, as well as being available for lettings. Please contact the school if you would like more details on facilities for hire.**



# Homework Club

Homework Club provides an alternative to the image of children working alone, as if in a library, completing homework set by their subject teachers.

Homework Club is about much more than this. It is a unique version of 'Inspiring Learning' that explores the links between subjects, through project based learning. This allows students to see how their subjects link together, and can be greater than the sum of the individual parts. It is a more independent approach to learning, which allows topics to be chosen that enforce research skills, and encourage more sustained exploration of a child's own interests. Einstein said "Any fool can know. The point is to understand." By looking beyond the body of knowledge that a student is expected to acquire during their lessons, we can see what it shows us about the world around us. Lincoln talked about the 'links in the chain stretching from the finite to the infinite'. Homework Club allows students to explore the links across subjects, to create, imagine and inspire. Ms Smyth, Assistant Headteacher, notes how "Homework Club allows students to learn and practice valuable skills such as teamwork, creativity, problem solving which are needed for the new world of work."

Students have a large variety of topics during Homework Club, that enable them to look at what is going on in the world and apply their studies to it. As a compulsory part of the school day, Tuesday's lesson 7, every student has the opportunity to engage with this approach to learning. Head of English Mr. Allaway says "Homework Club equips students with the skills and independence they need to thrive across the curriculum."



## Homework Club Topics:

Houses

Pinner Values

Travel

Organisation of School

Remembrance Day

Note Taking

Memory Skills

Time Capsule

World Religions, Festivals & Traditions

Chinese New Year

LGBT

School Maps

GCSE options

International Woman's Day

Reflection and Target Setting

St Georges Day

Trailblazers Charter

British Values

Mental Health Week

Sunflower House Competition



# Andrew Pearce

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