

PINNER
HIGH SCHOOL

INSPIRING LEARNING

ISSUE 4 SUMMER 2018

Q?RIUS-ER AND
CURIUSER

IN THIS
ISSUE



PINNERGOGY

FAST FORWARD



TIME DOES NOT PASS AT PINNER HIGH SCHOOL. IT RUNS, FAST, EVER FORWARD: HOW ARE WE ABOUT TO START OUR THIRD YEAR?

At first, a dusty office with no phone. Then the end of our first year, 150 students and a visiting inspector judging that we have 'the model for an outstanding school'. Students, parents and staff all rating the school 'outstanding' in all categories. Fast forward a year, and time continues to be our greatest test: what does an outstanding Pinner High School education look like after just two years?

Over 25 sports teams took to the field, court and pitch this year. Amongst them are borough champions and county representatives, and those who have yet to win a match. All of them bring life to the Pinner High School Values, as we celebrate success and recognise participation.

The same is true in performance: close to 60 students were involved in our second musical production 'Beauty and the Beast', building on the success of 'Bugsy Malone' last year. Soloists and chorus line, front of house and back stage, the resilience and dedication of all involved, not to mention their creativity and enthusiasm, was a delight to see.

Elsewhere in this magazine you can read about our 3 International Trips in our first 5 terms, 10 speakers in our new Q?rius programme, and a climate for learning that was described as 'relentless' by our most recent inspectors. Now we are the sole occupants of our fabulous site on Beaulieu Drive, students have been busy helping me prioritise for the £4.2 million refurbishment that is still to come. We have inherited excellent independent school facilities, including books in the library and nets on the tennis courts. By the time the refurbishment is completed our learning environment will possibly only be exceeded by our aspirations for our students' success.

So what does an outstanding Pinner High School education look like? Numbers may be small, but opportunities at Pinner High School are writ large: in the classroom, on the stage or sports field, and in shaping our first class school. Time is unlikely to slow down for the foreseeable future.

Chris Woolf Headteacher



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Q?RIUS-ER AND CURIUSER



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Q?RIUS-ER AND CURIUSER



'Q?rius' is about intellectual curiosity in all its forms. Beth Hindmarsh joined us in September 2017 as Head of our Trailblazing Year 8. She was previously a Leadership Development Officer at TeachFirst, the charity working to empower people to make education fair. She has a degree in History from the University of Cambridge and a Teaching qualification and Masters in Educational Leadership from the Institute of Education/University College London. Who better to lead our new programme to stimulate thinking and a thirst for knowledge?

Beth writes "Q?rius follows on from the successes of Year 7 Homework Club, where students explore links between subjects through project based learning. Topics in Homework Club have been as diverse as environmentalism, Chinese New Year and Democracy. The challenge at Pinner High School is always to make this year even better than the last, and Q?rius does this in lots of ways. It sits alongside the GCSE options process, the first important and independent decision students make about their education. Where will it take them? What will come next? It leads into careers guidance, and preparation for a positive future. We've invited speakers from all different careers and walks of life. Each speaker spoke about their own time at school, the route into where they are now and what their day to day lives are like, followed by the opportunity to ask questions. Not everyone will want to be a strategy consultant, but all students can hear the message about working hard at school to reach a top university, to ensure you have options about where to take your own future.

We've been lucky to be visited or to be visited in the next term by the following:

- Corporate Lawyer from Simmons and Simmons
- Criminal Barrister from 2 Bedford Row Chambers who had previously worked in Houston, USA working with people on Death Row
- Accountant from KPMG
- Intelligence Officers from the Army
- Strategy Consultant from Price Waterhouse Coopers
- RAF Pilot
- Vicar
- Rabbi
- Professional Musician
- Film Producer
- Police Officer
- Journalist (who has written for The Times, Daily Mail, The Guardian)
- Social Entrepreneur from 'The Girls Network'
- Civil Servant from the Foreign Office
- Survivors of youth violence from 'Breaking the Cycle'

Memorable moments have been plentiful: the stories of the adventures our journalist went on to get the inside scoop across the world, talking to all different communities. This included finding her way into a Turkish military camp by mistake and being politely asked to leave! We had insights into the fascinating dual role of a vicar keeping a 500-year-old Pinner building running alongside his religious duties supporting his parish. The Criminal Barrister's life before the Bar, working with those on death row in the USA and sharing her experiences of the American legal system, contrasted with evenings spent reading WhatsApp conversations as evidence in the UK. This certainly pricked the students' attention.

Especially thought provoking was the speaker from 'Breaking the Cycle', a survivor of youth violence, who spoke to us about his experience of being stabbed unprovoked when he was just 16. This left him paralysed, and he talked us through his journey to forgiveness. Students were able to reflect on their own experiences, and ways to forgive others when life takes an unexpected turn.

The pupils have been very curious in their questions of the speakers, from practical tips of how to get into careers, advice on GCSE options, to gory details of police cases. The question however that keeps cropping up: 'who pays you?', 'are you paid for every four minutes work?', 'how much do you get paid?' These were either answered or well dodged! One speaker responded back with 'how much do you they think I get paid?' With an answer of '£200' students were unclear if this was hourly, daily, weekly, or monthly!

It has been an eye opening speakers series that has allowed the pupils to see how their learning translates to the outside world that awaits them when they leave school. It's supported them to see how the choices they make for their GCSEs can place them onto the necessary path for a career and for many who are still not sure what they'd like to do has allowed them to see the variety of jobs waiting for them. We are busy planning next year's programme- do get in touch if you have a story to share."





“ THE MODEL FOR AN
OUTSTANDING SCHOOL ”

INSPECTION REPORT 2017



PINNERGOGY

The discipline of learning- pedagogy- as practised at Pinner High School and how this influences inspiring learners

Discussing pedagogical ideas leads to sharing good practice in classrooms. That leads to better experiences for students in school. 'Pinnergogy' is the term we use at Pinner High School to capture the distinctive brand of active learning that sets our learners apart.

It complements our school motto of 'Inspiring Learning'. Miss Amrania, teacher of Science, comments how it "involves engaging lessons which aim to challenge students' preconceptions; students are encouraged to evaluate the knowledge presented to them, nurturing leaders and not just followers." Miss Smyth, Assistant Headteacher, says Pinnergogy is about "creative, engaging and student-led learning."

Mrs Gillard, teacher of Geography, coined the term 'Pinnergogy' and notes how the concept of a lifelong learner involves teachers continually honing their practice. "The structure around which we have been sharing ideas comes from the influential book 'Making Every Lesson Count' by Shaun Allison and Andy Tharby. The book gives practical teaching strategies in order to connect research findings with classroom experiences. We discuss the six core concepts identified by the book; challenge, explanation, modelling, practice, feedback and questioning to focus and develop our practice."

She continues "Inspiring learning to me means challenging students to achieve the very best they can. As my students will know, I am interested in how the brain, and in particular, how our memory works. I try to work with this through frequent recall of information to develop students' long term retention of content and by linking concepts together to make for interesting and memorable connections. It is from this strong foundation in Key Stage 3 that we develop understanding during students' GCSE courses. Hopefully it also maximises the enjoyment of learning. Ms Brown, Head of Science, explains it as "role playing abstract concepts before proving them with a practical."

Pinnergogy also means teachers maintaining their professional skills. We are part of the Harrow Collegiate Teaching School Alliance, which provides first class, practical development courses to further develop good practice in the classroom. Headteacher Chris Woolf comments that "we have exceptional colleagues; over 650 people have applied to work at Pinner High School, and I've been very picky, which means we have a very well qualified staff. But we never stand still, and keeping such talented teachers at the top of their game means that 'Inspiring Learning' is about teachers too, and our learning community as a whole. Being recognised with the Princes Teaching Institute Mark, and being part of educational research projects such as the Anna Freud Mindfulness Project through University College London illustrates our commitment to this."

Mr. Allaway, Head of English, writes about Pinner High School's involvement in the UCL research programme: "Innovation is key at Pinner High School. Our motto of 'Inspiring Learning' acts as a daily reminder to all in the school community that this is a school in which we embrace opportunities to enhance the learning of our students. The school's practice of mindfulness is just one way in which this motto comes to life within the walls of Pinner High School. Since our very first term in September 2016 our students have had opportunities to learn and practise mindfulness. Participants in Miss Lowder's Mindfulness Club, one of the clubs offered as part of The Head's Challenge, have benefited from learning about the bridge between their emotions and their bodies and how developing a 'mindful' approach to this can afford them more control over both.

Our motto of 'Inspiring Learning' acts as a daily reminder to all in the school community that this is a school in which we embrace opportunities to enhance the learning of our students.



This term, we have been thrilled to take our engagement with mindfulness to an even greater level by securing a place on the Anna Freud National Centre for Children and Families research project into the mental health of children and young people, in collaboration with University College London. Classes from both year groups have since experienced two mindfulness sessions each week at the start of their lessons with Miss Lowder, Mr Knowles or myself. We each visited University College London for a training session as part of the programme, which provided many insights to help us support our students' mental health even more.

Where once the starts of lessons were a flurry of bags and the search for pens, students now spend ten minutes focussing on their breathing or noticing thoughts and emotions as they pass through their minds. Some classes have also used colouring and music exercises to help them access a more mindful perspective.

The mental health of young people is a nationally recognised issue, with everyone from Ed Sheeran to the Duchess of Cambridge promoting the importance of supporting teenagers with their mental well-being. Our work with The Anna Freud Centre ensures that Pinner High School is at the cutting edge of this practice."

Best practice has also been recognised in the Maths and Science departments with the award of the prestigious Princes Teaching Institute Mark in both subject areas.

The Mark recognises how schools and departments are increasing challenge within the curriculum, enthusing pupils with activities beyond the curriculum, developing staff's own specialist subject knowledge and developing subject-based links outside the school. The benefits to students at Pinner High of learning with departments that have this accolade is very clear.

Miss Hindmarsh, Head of Year 8 and teacher of History says that "Pinnergogy means the development of young critical minds, because 'Inspiring Learning' involves daring to question and explore what you don't know. When I walk around Pinner High School I see lessons where students are challenged and supported to think for themselves. That's Pinnergogy!"





SKI TRIP TO ITALY



PINNER HIGH SCHOOL ADVENTURES

SCIENCE MUSEUM TRIP



HILLINGDON
OUTDOOR ACTIVITY
CENTRE



SPAIN TRIP TO MURCIA





PARLIAMENT AND ME

Miss Lowder, teacher of Philosophy, Religion and Ethics, successfully applied to Parliament's Teacher's Institute this year. This has brought the opportunity to further enhance our students insights into the process of democracy and all that takes place in the Palace of Westminster.

Miss Lowder was selected from more than 170 applicants to attend the three-day event in Parliament. Fully funded by Parliament's Education Service, Miss Lowder questioned the House of Commons Speaker and the Lord Speaker, and heard from parliamentarians of all parties about their work in the Commons and Lords. Rt Hon Lord Fowler, The Lord Speaker, said: "Teachers' Institute is exceptionally well-regarded by the participants each year, and I welcome the opportunity to explain the work of the House of Lords to such an appreciative audience." Rt Hon John Bercow MP, Speaker of the House of Commons, said: "I am proud that this excellent initiative continues to provide such an invaluable service. Better engagement and dialogue with young people is of fundamental importance to our democracy."

Miss Lowder runs the school Politics Club, who have enjoyed visits from local Councillors, and shadow Chancellor John McDonnell. As part of the Q?rius programme associated with this, students have been debating the voting age, whilst developing their understanding of participation and representation. Students will themselves have the opportunity to apply to be Parliamentary Ambassadors, to visit local primary schools and work with their students about the importance of the democratic process. Their work Parliament and Me is on display at PinnFest, our summer festival of art, music and all the students have achieved this year.



FULL HOUSE



PE teacher Ryan Surridge had a challenge on his appointment as one of the Trailblazing staff: to create a climate of 'sport for all' whilst quite literally stretching our most able athletes. A vibrant House system and highly competitive representative sports teams are the cornerstones of how he has accomplished this so successfully.

From day one the signs were good: a tug of war House competition in which every student in every form took part. A sports hall filled with students on their first day at secondary school, heaving unwieldy ropes, roaring on their new classmates. Heavyweight Ali House outsprinted by Bannister House in the final standings, but the important result was the shared experience and the immediate bonds created. It's much easier to make friends when you are pulling in the same direction, and easier still when you all land in a heap together. The same term, the boys football team were crowned borough champions, the girls netball runners-up.

In year two over twenty one teams have represented the school. Every team is a chance to stretch and challenge, to bring life to the Pinner Values. The final ball victory over Avanti House lives long in the memory of the cricket team, so too the athletes who qualified for the county team. Every event winner at Sports Day expects to set a school record!

Not everyone can represent the school, but everyone has the opportunity to play for their House. Dodgeball, rounders, table tennis, basketball, football provide a range of sports in which students can play for their House. But the House competition is far more than a sports programme. The Spanish Spelling Bee is a highlight, where students translate and spell in front of their cheering peers. The spaghetti and marshmallow tower building engineering event was a hit. Our Transport for London Youth Travel Ambassadors competition to design an Oyster Card holder for the school provided a chance for others to shine.

All of these House events provide opportunities for students to find areas of their own strength, and the boost to their self-esteem this provides. A House system builds in a sense of community and belonging across the school, and reminds students of Roger Bannister's belief, emblazoned on the wall outside the newly refurbished changing rooms:



**HOWEVER ORDINARY EACH OF US MAY SEEM,
WE ARE ALL IN SOME WAY SPECIAL AND CAN
DO THINGS THAT ARE EXTRAORDINARY**



303 STUDENTS



45 STAFF



PINNER HIGH SCHOOL

1.4 MILES

LAST DISTANCE OFFERED ON NATIONAL OFFER DAY FOR SEPTEMBER 2018 ENTRY

10

Q?RIUS SPEAKERS

1515



LIBRARY LOANS IN OUR FIRST 2 TERMS

£4.2 MILLION REFURBISHMENT OF **66%** OF THE SCHOOL SITE

173 STUDENT PLACES

IN

21 SPORTS TEAMS

REPRESENTING THE SCHOOL IN TERMS 1 & 2

22

NEW MEMBERS OF STUDENT GOVERNMENT



915 APPLICATIONS FOR ENTRY IN SEPTEMBER 2018



HEAD'S CHALLENGE ACTIVITIES EVERY WEEK

5304

HOUSE POINTS

WON IN TERMS 1 AND 2



57 STUDENTS INVOLVED IN 'BEAUTY AND THE BEAST'



PINNER
HIGH SCHOOL

YEAR

2

WORD ON THE STREET

Pinner High School was delighted to be selected as a best practice representative in The Parliamentary Review.



Pinner High School receives Prince's Teaching Institute Mark

A school which is barely a year old has continued its rapid rise with further recognition from a charity supported by the Prince of Wales. Harrow Times - Jan 2018

Mindfulness and karaoke on menu for headmaster's DofE-style award.

Evening Standard - Sept 2017



"My son's first year at Pinner High was full of excellent opportunities, numerous trips and events to participate in, and fun weekly House Events. The school has continued to offer excellent teaching into year two from inspirational teachers, in a safe and friendly atmosphere, where he has continued to excel."

THE GOOD SCHOOLS GUIDE - 25TH FEB 2018

Follow us @pinnerhighsc



We are looking forward to Chris Woolf from @pinnerhighsc coming in to speak to our Year 6 pupils today! @WestLodgeSchool

Inspirational Speaker who is building a school with a great reputation in #Pinner @PinnerAssocial @Cllrs4Pinner @harrow_council @PinnerLocal



Well done to all the schools that have received a Bronze Young Carers in Schools Award including @pinnerhighsc, St. Andrews CE Infant School, @saintosburgs @CarersTrust

My son joined @pinnerhighsc last September, He has enjoyed every minute. He made good friends and developed under fantastic staff @Davitay

Thankyou to @pinnerhighsc for raising a great £177.79 from a purple themed non-uniform day! One pupil even painted his fingernails purple! @RB&HCharity

Many congratulations to @pinnerhighsc achieving the @EQualitiesAward. Such a great achievement for a new school with quality at its heart! @EQualitiesAward

My son is very happy here. The teachers are enthusiastic and passionate. The school offers lots of extra curricular activities plus a solid curriculum. Our religious and cultural beliefs are also valued and respected which fits into this ethnically diverse school.

THE GOOD SCHOOLS GUIDE - 23RD FEB 2018

Stepping Stones

Our current students settled into the school really well. As a small school they get to know each other really quickly, and they consistently feedback about the supportive environment they are in. They are keen to maintain this ethos as the school grows, so they wrote short letters to our next group of students and their parents for them to read at our first transition event in March, when they first find out they are about to join the Pinner High School family.

Dear Parents,

You have made an excellent choice of sending your child to Pinner High School. You will see your child improving their work and learning new skills every day due to the wonderful staff we have, who are keen to help us all the time.

Before coming to Pinner High I attended Grimsdyke School. On a normal school day, I take the H12 bus which generally only takes me 15 minutes, with a 5-minute walk to get to school. On a Monday and Thursday, we have clubs during period 7. On a Monday I do an Acting Club and Thursday I do Salsa Club. For Tuesday period 7, we have house events. I enjoyed MFL's Got Talent Competition. For this we had to do a dance or sing a song in another language. My form did salsa and hip hop and we won!

Yours sincerely - Dhara (7BX)

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Pinner High School. My time at Pinner High School has been amazing. I previously attended Longfield Primary School. When I first joined Pinner High I was nervous but excited at the same time.

I go to reading club and environmental club. Reading club involves an opportunity to spend some time to yourself and read but also to talk about any event that you want to hold to do with reading. Environmental club involves getting closer to nature, being more environmentally friendly and making new friends.

Pinner High is an amazing school. It offers many opportunities and educates us as well as letting us have fun activities. The students here are also here to help and are very welcoming. So if you do choose Pinner High School you will have a really good time.

Kali (7MY)

Dear Future students!

I am glad you have decided to consider coming to Pinner High. I attended Pinner Wood School before and it was quite straightforward. I thought I was really going to struggle in Pinner High and that the teachers were going to put too much pressure on me. However, on my first day at high school I was treated so nicely by everyone and the lessons were really fun but educational at the same time.

My favourite lesson at Pinner High is Drama, because I am very passionate towards acting and role play and I enjoy all the topics in Drama. I also enjoy Spanish because the teacher is very encouraging and she is really nice and supportive if we are struggling or need help. Pinner High School was the right choice for me, so it's the right choice for you too.

Liaza (7BX)

Dear Parent / Carer / Student,

When I first started at High school I had so many questions; what will it be like? Will I be able to make new friends? It looked different to Cannon Lane!

On my first day I was so nervous but one hour into the school day and I was fine. I was really happy and I had made friends as everyone was really nice and welcoming. Here at Pinner High School we have lots of new subjects and opportunities. My favourite subject is Science because it is really interesting. We do lots of fun experiments and Science is amazing.

There are lots of opportunities for school trips abroad and here in the UK. I have been on trips to the HOAC and the Science Museum. You can also go skiing in February. Some students went to Spain in the Easter holiday. We are also going to China in 2019, and there is a World Challenge trip to Costa Rica too.

Priyesh (7MY)



Words can be like Xrays if you use them properly
- they'll go through anything

ALDOUS HUXLEY 'BRAVE NEW WORLD'



Beverly Naidoo

World Book Day celebrations this year included 'Journey to Jo'burg' author Beverly Naidoo speaking to the whole school, and doing some follow up workshops with students. Beverly is a Carnegie Medal winning writer from South Africa, where she lived until her twenties, before settling in the UK. She is a prolific writer, famous for 'The Other Side of Truth' and 'No Turning Back: a Novel of South Africa'. After the presentation to students, they were asked to write her a letter in their English lesson.

Dear Beverley Naidoo,

Thank you for coming to Pinner High School even though it was very snowy. You must have woken up early and travelled a long way to our school. We were very happy to see you. I learnt a lot about race relations from you and your book, how if you were black and you sat on a white person's bench you could get in so much trouble.

The bit where you talked about how a woman was under house arrest for five years and after that experience went around freeing people was very touching. You said she was very inspirational and a great person in history, which I agree with. You also talked about how people were put in prison because they were standing up for their rights like Nelson Mandela.

You said that when you were growing up there were white people's schools, benches and seats on buses and people were segregated by their skin colour. This just doesn't seem right. Many black people didn't have a job so they couldn't afford food. In your book you talked about the two characters needing food and some slaves gave them oranges. We'll learn more about this in history lessons, but it was really interesting hearing about it from your book. It felt like we were there.

You said your book was very hard to publish and that the publishers said that the book was not suitable for children. You probably went through around 10 publishers for your amazing book to be published. You lined up all your books, which was around 15, and read the opening to a lot of them. They really grabbed my attention.

Thank you so much for coming in during our terrible weather and travelling so far. You were enthusiastic and kind and open to answering all our questions. We learnt so much, not just about books and writing. Thank you.

Yours sincerely, Adam (7BY)



Word Play

Our able writers from Year 7 went to Stanmore Library to meet the poet, Neal Zetter. He has written over 15 books, and he read from his book of superhero poems.

After he told us a bit about his poems, we had to write our superheroes that we had invented. I made up a character called Miss-Change, who could change her form or transform into someone else. We then had to write about themes the poet gave us; our theme was 'mud'! It was all really good fun and helped us to see different techniques writers use, so we can also use them ourselves in our writing.

Jess (7MY)



Andrew Pearce

P I N N E R

Andrew Pearce Property Consultants is an established Independent estate agents & Chartered surveyors specialising in Residential Sales, Lettings, Commercial, Property Management and Land & New Homes in Pinner and the surrounding areas of Hatch End, North Harrow, Eastcote, Ruislip, Harrow and Northwood.



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