

PINNER
HIGH SCHOOL

INSPIRING LEARNING

ISSUE 1 SUMMER 2016

LOOKING
BACK

IN THIS
ISSUE

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SPOTLIGHT

SETTING
THE STAGE





A WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR OF THE HARROW ACADEMIES TRUST

The Headteachers of the High Schools in Harrow are delighted that their vision of opening an academy free school has now been fully realised, with Pinner High School opening its doors to young people in September 2016. There have been many steps taken and hurdles jumped along the way since the Headteachers submitted their application to the DfE in 2014. The most positive stages include; developing the Governing Body, the securing of the former Heathfield building in the heart of Pinner and most importantly, the appointment of Chris Woolf as Headteacher. Since his appointment, Chris and members of the Governing Body have successfully appointed the highest quality teachers and business support staff. Improvements have been made to the school building and resources purchased. The school is now fully prepared for the first cohort of Pinner High School children.

As Chair of the Harrow Academies Trust, on behalf of our trustees, we wish Chris and his colleagues the very best for a successful opening in September. During the next few months we will be working with the builders regarding the development of Harrow View Primary, our second free school. This will be built on the Kodak site in Harrow. As Headteachers we all wish to ensure that every child and young person in Harrow receives the very best education. The development and opening of our two new schools complement the existing excellent primary, special and secondary schools which provide very high quality teaching and learning for all children.

Janice Howkins

Headteacher, Bentley Wood High School
Chair of the Harrow Academies Trust

A WELCOME FROM THE GOVERNORS

For the past 18 months the Governors have been busy getting Pinner High School ready for our first cohort of students starting in September 2016. As Governors we have an important role to play in the governance and management of the school. We have been involved in all aspects of the school including recruitment of staff, building works, policies, finance, curriculum development and even the school uniform!

Governors are working closely with Chris and his team to provide the very best education so that all children can achieve to the best of their abilities. Chris has set about his task with great energy and vision, and Pinner High School will offer a broad and balanced curriculum and provide experienced and dedicated staff to work in partnership with pupils and parents. We have attracted very high calibre teachers to the school already; nearly 300 applicants for the first 10 teaching posts.

Our focus is to provide an excellent all round education for all pupils coming to Pinner High School and to continue the tradition of outstanding secondary education provided in Harrow.

From my perspective it has been an extremely positive and rewarding experience being a governor. I hope that you will consider joining our Governors when a vacancy arises and should you need any more information, please do not hesitate to contact the school. Any of our governors will be happy to tell you about our governance roles and responsibilities.

Nav Kullar

Chair of Governors, Pinner High School

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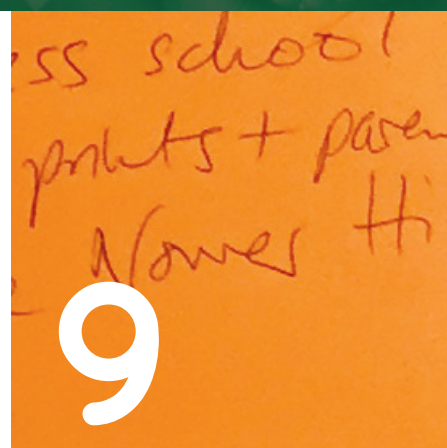
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BUILDING AN ETHOS

HEADTEACHER CHRIS WOOLF TALKS ABOUT BRINGING THE PINNER HIGH SCHOOL VALUES TO LIFE

It can be hard to put your finger on the ethos of a school. To me it is the pulse that beats beneath the surface of all that a school does, it is the life blood that flows through the whole school community; students, staff, governors, parents, and all those who are involved in the school in any way. Describing an ethos can leave the most articulate tongue-tied. How do we want our children to live? What is it that we want our children to show? How do you build character?

At Pinner High School, we have identified a set of values that will guide what we do, around which our ethos is built. These values are ones that we all try to exhibit every day. The Pinner High School Values are in three groups, to emphasise our interaction with the world around us: as individual people, 'myself'; as students at school representing an attitude to learning, 'my school'; and in our engagement with the wider world with a broader outlook 'my community'.

'Pinner High School Values' is intended to be read in two ways: what it is that we value, as well as the values of the school. Both of these together teach children what it is our community stands for, the high standards that we aim to live up to and exhibit in all that we do.

These are our values: for young people to demonstrate the nouns as qualities that have worth in themselves, as well as to use the adjectives as they observe it in others around them.

MYSELF	MY SCHOOL	MY COMMUNITY
Kindness, compassion, integrity, balance, respect, trust.	Creativity, enthusiasm, resilience, flexibility, dedication, perseverance.	Responsibility, collaboration, open-mindedness, confidence, adaptability, courage.

From these values grows the ethos of a school, that is characterised by:

- ⊕ Expecting the highest standards from students and staff.
- ⊕ A calm, friendly and disciplined environment with positive relationships.
- ⊕ A curriculum that excites and stretches all students.
- ⊕ Knowing every student and supporting their personal development.
- ⊕ Working in partnership with families and the wider community.
- ⊕ Continual self-evaluation and improvement.
- ⊕ Preparing students to have the skills and knowledge required to progress successfully from school.

Of course, if an ethos is the beating heart of the school, that will guide teachers as they teach, students as they study, and parents in their partnership with the school, all stakeholders need to have a voice as that ethos takes shape. I hope that with a clear sense of the deep rooted values upon which our school is founded, discussion and dialogue with the whole community will ensure happy and sustained growth in the years ahead.

MEET THE HEAD



**CHRIS
WOOLF**
HEAD
TEACHER

Chris's first steps as a teacher came at the University of the South Pacific during his gap year in Fiji. This experience gave him a glimpse of a future career, and further voluntary experience in classrooms in Romania and Beirut confirmed this decision. He trained as an English and Drama teacher at Homerton College, University of Cambridge, after graduating from the University of St. Andrews with an MA (Hons.) in English Literature and Language. He was awarded a scholarship to the University of California, Davis, where he twice featured on the Dean's Honour List.

Chris started his teaching career at Mill Hill County High School, Barnet, where he progressed from NQT to Head of English. His wanderlust returned, and he moved to Dulwich College Beijing, initially as Head of English, then Deputy Head, and then Head of Senior School. The school was named 'British International School of the Year' in the Independent School Awards whilst he was Head of Senior School.

The Bushey Academy has been recognised with SSAT Awards for Educational Outcomes for three consecutive years, and has been used as a case study in school improvement three times over.

Chris is an Apple Distinguished Educator, a member of the Worshipful Company of Educators, and a Freeman of the City of London. He was awarded the National Professional Qualification for Headship (NPQH) in 2012.

Chris lives in Pinner with his wife and two young daughters. He remembers that he used to go to the theatre and play tennis, and when family commitments allow it, he may one day do so again.

Chris is incredibly excited to be leading Pinner High School, and being able to draw on these diverse educational experiences. Founding a school in the community in which he lives is an opportunity he is very passionate about. He looks forward to meeting more local families and deepening community links as the school puts down roots.

I am very pleased that a new school Pinner High will open up to our youngsters and excited to see a large number of Longfield pupils will attend this September. I would like to welcome them and look forward to working closely with the school's Headteacher Mr Woolf and staff to build relationships and work in partnership to support our community. We wish them well and look forward to delivering a seamless transition. These are exciting times and I have no doubt the children will have good quality learning experiences to look forward to! Welcome Pinner High!

Pam Virdee, Headteacher, Longfield Primary School

Wishing Pinner High School all the very best as it begins the most amazing journey. How thrilling to be part of such an exciting adventure.

Dame Reena Keeble, Community Governor and former Head of Cannon Lane Primary School

I was delighted to visit the new Pinner High School in the past few weeks. In fact walking towards the entrance underneath the distinctive clock tower was a trip down memory lane for me. I was a pupil at Pinner Sixth Form College back at the end of the 1970s, one of the building's many guises over the years. The new school, I believe, will help greatly to meet the increased demand for school places throughout the area and will be a bright new star adding to Harrow's reputation of a high standard of education.

I want to wish Chris Woolf, the headmaster and all his staff and pupils good wishes for the academic year ahead. I was particularly pleased to learn when I was given my guided tour of the facilities that many of the first intake of pupils this September will have come from Longfield School, which is in the ward I represent on the council and also the school that I serve as a member of their governing body.

Councillor James Bond, Headstone North

Visiting Pinner High School in the spring was very enjoyable. Seeing the school open, and the plans come to life will be even better. I am delighted local constituents will have another excellent school available to them.

Nick Hurd, MP for Northwood, Ruislip and Pinner

We are all very much looking forward to welcoming the first intake of Year 7 students to Pinner High School in September. Mr Woolf visited Cannon Lane School in the autumn term and our children and staff heard about all of the exciting plans that are in place for the next academic year. Our schools are next door to each other and this is a great opportunity to develop an effective partnership that will benefit children, staff and parents for many years to come. We wish all at Pinner High School the very best for the future.

Alastair Phillips, Headteacher Cannon Lane Primary School

As Headteacher of a local primary school, I am very excited about the opening of Pinner High School. I would like to join in welcoming Pinner High School to the local community of Pinner and look forward to creating exciting links and sharing expertise.

Jim Dees, Headteacher West Lodge Primary School

It is brilliant for our children to have another school in the local area to choose as their preferred choice for secondary school. Pinner High School offers children high quality education in a stimulating and inspiring environment. I look forward to seeing the school grow and develop further in the coming years.

Kulvinder Nahal, Headteacher, Newnham Junior School

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Pranav Bhatia

Pranav Bhatia spent Year 6 at Reddiford School in Pinner. He really enjoys cricket, and plays in the U12 squad for Hillingdon Borough. This year he was lucky enough to go on a cricket tour to South Africa, where he took his first hat-trick in Cape Town.

Pranav is really looking forward to starting Pinner High. Like many students, he is a little nervous as he will start to travel back from school on his own but he is looking forward to being more independent. Pranav says: "I decided to choose Pinner High School because I am coming from a school that is very small and I like the idea of being the only year group in the school. We will always be the oldest pupils and as we grow, so will the school. Pinner High is also close to my home so I will make new friends who live near me."

When he was asked about Pinner High, Pranav went on: "It is really exciting to be starting in a school that is new. We will have modern facilities and both staff and pupils will be keen to make the school the best. I am looking forward to making new friends. The teachers will get to know us well as we will be the only year in the school."

Pranav summed up how he feels about being a Pinner High School Trailblazer as: "Excited, lucky and happy."

“ IT IS REALLY EXCITING TO BE STARTING IN A SCHOOL THAT IS NEW ”

Anna Spring's thoughts about being a Pinner High School Trailblazer were very similar: "Nervous, excited and happy." She joins Pinner High School from Newnham Junior School. She likes drawing, painting and playing Agar.io. At school she is into art, science, geography and hockey. She reads a lot; currently the Warrior Cats series.

When asked about moving to secondary school, Anna says: "I'm kind of nervous. I'm also quite excited because a couple of my friends are coming as well. Also it's a new school so that's really exciting." Anna chose Pinner High School because it used to be her old school, Heathfield, from Reception to Year 3.

Anna continued: "I'm most looking forward to meeting the new teachers and learning new things especially about Art."

Anna Spring



FUTURE PERFECT

ONE OF THE MANY JOYS OF WRITING THE OPENING CHAPTERS OF A NEW SCHOOL IS A SENSE OF SETTING UP A SCHOOL AS IT SHOULD BE, RATHER THAN RUNNING A SCHOOL AS IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN. MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES AT PINNER HIGH SCHOOL DEMONSTRATE THIS VERY EFFECTIVELY.

Languages bring so much to schools. Learning about the world and about the culture and customs of different people within our own diverse community demonstrates how important it is. In a world where tolerance and understanding can be increasingly stretched, the value of language learning is more important than ever.

The staple languages of Britain's secondary schools are French and German. That is what it has always been. In the 1960s this made sense, in a time when the European Community was being established these were the languages of our nearest neighbours. Learning more about them made sense politically, culturally and for business. However, the students of Pinner High School will be graduating in the mid-2020s. While A Level candidates overall have increased by 30% in the last 15 years, entries for French have decreased by 20,000 students. Pinner High School is looking to the future, rather than hiding in the past: Spanish and Mandarin are the languages that will distinguish the graduates and job seekers of 2025.

In an article in 'The Independent', Andrew Hall chief executive of the AQA exam board, noted how Spanish is already poised to overtake French as the most popular foreign language in schools. "I've always been talking about savvy students, and that's just what they are. They are thinking 'This language will really help me. It is one of the most commonly spoken languages in the world.'"



Language learning has drawn comment from a range of politicians, as the British Council published the report 'Languages of the Future' in 2013, highlighting Spanish and Mandarin in the list of languages most vital to the UK in the next 20 years. David Cameron stated: "By the time the children born today leave school, China is set to be the world's largest economy. So it is time to look beyond the traditional focus on French and German and get many more children learning Mandarin. As Mandela once said: If you talk to a man in a language he understands that goes into his head, if you talk to him in his own language that goes to his heart."

Modern Foreign Languages at Pinner High School are ones that will certainly appeal to the heart, taught by dynamic, well qualified, passionate staff. Language lessons will focus on the target language, leading to confident, fluent students keen to use their linguistic skills. Language learning is also about broadening horizons: so expect conversations throughout the year about Chinese calligraphy, Moon Festival, the Chinese Lunar Calendar, voyages around South America, as well as European football!

HEAD ON THE HEAD'S CHALLENGE



All students are encouraged to complete the Head's Challenge, a year long programme that brings together our extra-curricular activities, House Events, Outdoor Adventure and Charity work. Academic success is central to any school, but while 'high aspiration' is in the first sentence in the Pinner High School vision statement, it is swiftly followed by 'the opportunity to excel in and out of the classroom, on the sports field, on the stage, in the community, enjoying a wealth of enrichment opportunities.'

This is what brings school to life for many students: the performances that give them the self-confidence and belief to stand in front of groups of people; the sports games that teach them about working with others, communicating and collaborating on the way. After his Olympic triumph, Mo Farah summed up his success: "It's all about hard work and grafting". Whilst those precise words may not be in the Pinner High School Values, it is a short step to resilience, dedication, perseverance and courage, which are. The discipline of rehearsals and practice are skills that students use time and time again, in a variety of arenas. While the arts and sports certainly bring schools to life, perhaps they also teach life's most valuable lessons.

Reflecting on his success, Michael Jordan said 'You have to expect things of yourself before you can do them'. Raising what a young person expects of themselves shows the value that sport has at school. Self-esteem can be fragile, and activities outside the classroom build it in a powerful way. This links straight back to 'high aspiration', as the values of success in sport, music and drama are the same ones as the classroom. Aristotle said that 'Music has a power of forming the character and should therefore be introduced into the education of the young.' Certainly true, but Plato made it sound rather more fun! 'Music... gives soul to the universe, wings to the mind and life to everything...'

House Events are included in the Head's Challenge, as they will be a cornerstone of activities in our school community. From photography to public speaking, to maths and masterchef, there will be an event that suits everyone. Supporting others in your House and sharing success is one thing; commiserating third place and recognising all contributions is just as important.

The Head's Challenge will set students up for the Duke of Edinburgh Award when students are old enough to be eligible for it. Students tend to find the expedition is the most memorable part of the Duke of Edinburgh Award. Pinner High students will work up to this, initially with a day adventure at the Hillingdon Outdoor Activity Centre. This will also help bring the year group together in our new school.


A key element of the Duke of Edinburgh Award is 'Service', and as the school grows so will our links and contributions to the community. The school motto is 'Inspiring Learning', and the way this represents a commitment students at Pinner High make to inspire others around them comes to life in the Head's Challenge. It can be about fundraising, but it can also be about giving time and energy. Gandhi's famous phrase: 'Be the change you wish to see in the world' captures the essence of the Head's Challenge. I know this is one that the Trailblazers will take up, and all those who will follow.



YOU HAVE TO EXPECT THINGS OF
YOURSELF BEFORE YOU CAN DO THEM



SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL



Pinner High School is committed to working with our students and the local community with regard to sustainable travel. We are already working on this with Transport for London and Harrow Council. Travel Planner Kerry Edens from Harrow's Community Directorate notes some of the benefits of avoiding the car on the school run.

There are huge benefits for children who walk or travel independently to school. The school journey is a golden opportunity to boost children's development and health. The obvious benefit is to physical health, but the benefits don't stop there. Research has shown that just 15 minutes of aerobic exercise can improve mood in children and young people. The benefits on mental health and wellbeing should not be ignored. The benefits of active school journeys are noticed in class too. By walking or using public transport to get to school, rather than sitting in a car, pupils arrive more alert, and as a result, are more capable in the classroom. An active journey to school can also help boost children's emotional development, confidence and resilience.

Self-confidence is recognised by experts as one of the most influential factors in an individual's behaviour and attainment. An active and independent journey to school offers children the opportunity to develop their assertiveness and learn new skills, such as being responsible, making good decisions, and time and risk management. These are valuable skills which are useful not just in school, but also in later in life.

A range of support is available for pupils and families in Harrow and Hillingdon to help plan journeys to school. Transport for London provides support to schools to encourage safe, responsible and respectful behaviour on and around London's transport system. Changing children's travel habits is about more than just the number of cars on the road. Active journeys help prepare children for the choices and challenges they face, and put them on the path to success.

Pinner High School has already booked in a Congestion Busting Week in October, and will be taking part in the Youth Travel Ambassadors programme. 'Bike It' campaigns will also be a feature of the calendar, so that Pinner High School students will learn how to choose the best mode of transport, and how to stay safe on the roads around the school and beyond.

NEW SCHOOL TIES

For many teenagers, fashion choices can seem like some of the most important decisions they make. Quite some responsibility, then, in creating the uniform students will wear every working day for 5 years of their lives!

Despite this pressure, designing a new school uniform was great fun. Smart, simple and affordable were key parts of the decision making process. Governors first settled on a colour theme. Several colour choices had to be ruled out in order to make the uniform different to other local schools. Having done so, and decided on a colour- British Racing Green- the school branding quickly took shape, and is consistent across jumper, cardigan and PE kit.

At Pinner High School, we feel that wearing uniform smartly is part of learning about professional presentation for the world of work. As such, there is a formal uniform policy, and there will be consistently high expectations about wearing it correctly. Lively discussion was had at a Governors meeting around the issue of ties. Some schools are starting to do away with them completely, others have them for boys and girls. Consistent with the view that school uniform is analogous to professional attire for the workplace, it follows that boys are expected to wear ties. Male professionals routinely do the same. However, very few females wear ties in the work place and for this reason, at Pinner High School girls wear a reverse collar shirt, without the expectation of a tie.

A school uniform is not just about sartorial elegance and setting a high standard of appearance. It is a good way of ensuring students take pride in themselves, and in representing their school well, and preparing for the expectations of a professional environment. In all matters of uniform, dress and appearance will be considered in a way that upholds the intention of uniform to promote a positive formal impression, and to encourage students to take pride in their appearance and the way this represents our community. In due course a Sixth Form dress code will be established. Students will be fully involved in this process.

Feedback from students and parents has so far been very positive. It reflects the community feedback from the first open event in November 2014, and will soon be part of the everyday life of the school.



Pinner High School uniform

- 1. Plain white shirt** - top button must be fastened for boys, reverse collar for girls.
- 2. School Blazer*** - Pinner High School blazer (sleeves should not be rolled up).
- 3. Jumper or Cardigan*** - Pinner High School jumper or cardigan, worn outside of trousers.
- 4. Plain black trousers** - single pleat or flat front or:
- 5. Plain black skirt** - Black skirts that must sit on or below the knee.
- 6. Plain black shoes**
- 7. Socks or Tights/socks** - Plain black or natural tights with skirts or black socks with trousers. Black ankle socks are permitted in summer.
- 8. School Tie*** (boys only).

PE kit

- 1. School short sleeved polo shirt.***
- 2. School long-sleeved reversible top.***
- 3. School shorts.**
- 4. School tracksuit trousers.**
- 5. School sports socks*** - for winter outdoor sport.
- 6. Short white socks** - for indoor lessons.
- 7. Appropriate footwear** - football boots, outdoor trainers, non-marking sole trainers for indoor activities.
- 8. Appropriate safety equipment** - shinpads for contact sports, mouth guards for hockey and rugby.

Items marked * must be purchased from our official uniform supplier, Angels Uniforms, 317 Rayners Lane, Pinner, Middlesex, HA5 5EH.

LOOKING BACK

Geoff Barr, Old Pinner Students Association, and Geoff Hudson, Chair of Governors at Northwood School for Girls reflect on the history of the site.

In August 1897 Percy Rayner, aged six, visited Downs Farm in Cannon Lane to play with the farmer's sons. Little did he realise that 40 years later he would return to these grounds as the first headmaster of Pinner County School, a school built on the site of the farm, where he would be welcoming 153 children to his brand new school. At a cost of around £48,619, the school was designed to accommodate 508 boys and girls.

Between 1937 and 1982 approximately 6,200 pupils received their education at Pinner County School, Pinner County Grammar School and Pinner Sixth Form College. Pinner gave the world of music Ron Goodwin (composer, arranger and conductor), Gordon Beck (jazz musician), Elton John and Simon Le Bon (both composers and singers.)

The building was often described as being one of 'battleship lines' typical of the reduced art deco style of the time particularly reflected in the school hall and the staircase in the north-west corner of the school. It wasn't too long before the building was accommodating far more pupils than planned and for 30 years the building enjoyed its neatly rectangular existence, uninterrupted corridors and north-south lines. In 1968 work commenced with the building of a new gym block to the north-west corner and a new teaching block to the south-west corner. This was followed with a second phase of works involving major alterations to both floors of the north, south and west wings. When Heathfield acquired the premises in 1982 they too undertook major building works over a period of time resulting in the building and facilities that are now Pinner High School.



In 1987, Heathfield became a member of the Girls' Public Day School Trust and the first benefit was the building of a new Junior department which opened in 1988 and enabled Heathfield to enrol children from four years upwards. During this year Headmistress Mrs Ribchester retired and was replaced by Mrs Jean Merritt, who was Head for 12 years and then passed the baton to Miss Christine Juett in 1997. Miss Anne Stevens was the last Headmistress of Heathfield School for Girls and joined the school in 2011.

Development of the site continued with the installation of new sports facilities and extended library in 2000. 2005 saw the launch of additional Sixth Form accommodation and renovation continued to include updated Science laboratories, Art and Maths classrooms and a new dining room.

In Summer 2014, Heathfield School for Girls merged with Northwood College to become a new school - Northwood College for Girls GDST- and over 200 former Heathfield students moved to the Northwood College site in Maxwell Road, Northwood.



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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