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DIARY DATES

3rd January 2017

Term Starts

5th January

Year 11 Parents Evening

17th January

Sixth Form Open Evening

25th January

Year 9 Parents Evening

8th & 9th February

"A Night With The Stars"

1st March

Year 9 Options Evening

14th March

Year 10 Parents Evening

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BEST EVER GCSE RESULTS

The Academy is once again celebrating another outstanding set of results – this time for our GCSE and BTEC students in Year 11. Our overall English and Math's A*-C rate, which is the governments new preferred measure, has risen from 49% in 2015 to 57% this year. This is a stunning achievement for all our students and staff who have worked so hard over the last 2 years of Key Stage 4. Many of our students have opted to stay on and join our outstanding sixth form and look to emulate the staggering success years 12 and 13 have achieved.



Holiday Update

TERM STARTS: TUESDAY 3RD JANUARY 2017

HALF TERM: MONDAY 20TH - FRIDAY 24TH FEBRUARY

EASTER HOLIDAY: MONDAY 10TH - FRIDAY 21ST APRIL



What an amazing start to the year at Pool Hayes! Buoyed by our fantastic GCSE and A Level results, which put us for the first time in the top 5 schools in the whole of Walsall, pupils and staff have rallied to the challenge of making the academy an even better place to learn. Whilst learning in lessons continues at pace (and we are looking forward to even better results at the end of this year – no pressure Years 11 and 13) there is so much going on around the place during the day, after school and at weekends it is difficult to keep pace! Our House charities have once again provided the inspiration to our pupils to come up with fun and poignant ways to raise money to support the great work done by these local organisations. As ever, they are ably assisted by their highly competitive Heads of House. We look forward to finding out which House comes out on top for the Charity Cup this year.

As the days have drawn shorter and colder, the pace has not let up. We have seen pupils going out on rewards trips – trampolining, ice skating even shopping! It is important we recognize the hard work, dedication and attendance of so many of our pupils and the incentives that these offer have proved invaluable. As the year progresses the criteria to qualify for the trips will get harder so pupils will be encouraged to up their game even more.

Whilst achievement and success are their own reward for many, it is always nice for others to recognize and celebrate it as well. We have followed up last year's ATT Teacher's Awards winners with two Pupil Award winners this year. The Academy Transformation Trust, our academy sponsors, have awarded Callum Westwood the 'Overcoming Adversity' award and Abbey Onions won the Christmas Card competition – a fantastic piece of artwork that has been made into Christmas cards for the Trust to send all around the world.

Moving forward, the Spring term has many events for us to look forward to and as the countdown for our older pupils and their exams is well and truly on. We wish them all the best for this vital term. Following our massively popular Open Evening earlier this term, we are also looking forward to welcoming more of our primary friends to join us at Pool Hayes to experience some of our subject specific enrichment events.

Finally, I would like to thank staff, pupils and their parents for the support I have been given in my first term as Principal. I was once told that being a Headteacher can be a very lonely job, however, I am pleased to say that this has not been my experience. We have a fantastic team and wider community at Pool Hayes and it is and always will be a tremendous privilege to lead such wonderful people. I look forward to continued support and success in the coming years and wish you all a Merry Christmas!



Mr Luke Baker
Head Teacher





A LEVEL RESULTS DAY

The Academy has also celebrated some outstanding successes in A Level and AS results, as well as some staggering vocational outcomes in the Sixth Form marking another year of improvements and resulting in our best ever results. We are pleased to see so many of our students achieving such great success. Many of the students have secured University places with a number going onto apprenticeships and employment opportunities. Following all of the dedication and hard work that has gone into the courses, we are thrilled with the results and wish our students all the best for their future pathways.



ATT AWARDS CEREMONY

Best-selling, Professor Gervase Phinn, helped to celebrate the talent of teachers across the UK as he hosted ATT's first ever national awards. In total 19 teachers from across ATT were recognised at The Trust's much-anticipated Teaching Awards 2016, held in June. Joyce Hodgetts, MD of ATT, said: "At ATT, it's important that we honour our teachers for their dedication to our pupils. Congratulations to every single teacher that won an award and to those that were shortlisted – we are very proud of their outstanding contributions to our academies."



ROCK FEST

You know the summer is well underway when the RockFest at The Robin 2 venue in Bilston comes around and the performances this year matched anything that we have seen previously. Our student performers have been rehearsing throughout the year for this high-profile event and this commitment was proven to be well spent when their turns rolled out. Students, staff and families thoroughly enjoyed the event and our superb track record of performances continued to its usual high standard. Congratulations to everyone involved - roll on Summer 2017!



FORENSICS DAY

Pupils from Year 3 at Woodlands Academy of Learning recently spent 3 lessons with us at Pool Hayes. The pupils carried out a forensic science investigation, which included finding and testing evidence from a crime scene, to solve a murder. Pupils were able to use chromatography, a range of chemical tests, and analysed fibres to test their evidence. Using these findings pupils were able to identify the suspect for the crime. Their visit finished off with a demonstration of how illusionists use fire in their tricks without harming themselves.



PSHEE FOOD WEEK

Monday 3rd October marked the beginning of Food and Business week and Year 9 students engaged in an enterprise event to create a new restaurant or healthy food product. Students presented their findings to the audience and judges in the main hall. For some, this was a significant challenge in itself, not to mention trying to remember the 4P's of marketing. After a successful day students had experienced a slice of business studies, a sprinkling of teamwork, a dash of leadership and a massive helping of communication skills.



MASTER CHEF

October 2016 saw the 2nd British Food fortnight celebration here at Pool Hayes. The week got off to a superb start, with an 'inter-house' masterchef competition. All competitors were extremely professional, and Heads of House had a really tough job in awarding 1st place. In true masterchef style, the winners showed outstanding skills, teamwork, and commitment to the taste and presentation! Finalists will be going on to compete in the Future Chef National Competition in the New Year.



MACMILLAN FUNDRAISING

Staff at Pool Hayes Academy made an exceptional effort in doing their part for raising funds on 26 September 2016 for Macmillan Coffee Morning. Staff from all departments gave up part of their weekend to bake mouth-watering cakes. We also had a kind donation from the Eggless Cake Shop, Smethwick. With the vast amount of selection on offer all staff enjoyed a slice of sweetness with their morning coffee and raised a total of £211.00!



HARRY POTTER TOUR

On Friday 11th November, Y10 and Y11 students were given the opportunity to go to the Warner Bros Studio Tour in London. The behind-the-scenes tour enabled students to see many things unseen on camera, from detailed sets to stunning costumes, props and animatronics. This offered students the ultimate opportunity to step onto authentic sets, discover the magic behind spellbinding special effects and explore behind-the-scenes secrets of the Harry Potter film series. Students walked the original stone floor of the Hogwarts Great Hall and wandered down Diagon Alley.



ATT BEST EVER GCSE RESULTS

ATT is celebrating a significant increase in GCSE results, making this the best year yet for The Trust's secondary academies. This followed a similar upward trend in A-level subjects for ATT academies this year. Ian Cleland, CEO of ATT, said: "We are incredibly proud of each of our academies for once again performing in line with or better than national averages which represents significant progress for our pupils. These results are the outcome of hard work and commitment of both pupils and staff. Well done to all – together we will continue to build on this success and we wish our pupils all the best in the years ahead."



HAPPY HALLOWEEN

Well done to all who helped and supported in the Carpenter House charity fundraiser! The House managed to raise over £160 thanks to everyone who got involved. It was fantastic to see all of Carpenter staff and students working together to put on a great lunchtime trick or treat. We would also like to say a special thank you to the dancers and our Charity rep Ben Pratt for the lovely cakes provided.



REMEMBRANCE DAY

On Friday 11th November Head Boy, Joshua Pullinger and Head Girl, Amie Troath, along with their deputies, Jack Vincent and Amber Stanley, visited the Cenotaph in Willenhall where they laid a poppy wreath on behalf of Pool Hayes Academy. The students paid their respects by holding a minute's silence where they remembered the fallen in the war, along with the many brave soldiers who risk their lives today in conflicts across the world. In school, the entire student and staff body fell silent for two minutes following the playing of the Last Post by Mr Penn.



WRESTLING MANIA

What an amazing night at Pool Hayes! Who would have thought that a professional wrestling event could be held in a school hall and be such a success. The objective was for students to create a character who would then come alive and perform, and boy did he perform! Pool Hayes would like to thank Slam Wrestling, The Big Kahunas and all staff for their hard work! With all of the hard work and dedication involved we were able to raise £233.06 for Teenage Cancer Trust; Hodson's house charity.



ELF THE MUSICAL

This week the Pool Hayes Academy Performing Arts departments presented 'Elf the Musical Jr' to a packed audience. The staff and pupils have worked incredibly hard over the last term to put together this SparkleJollyTwinkleJingly musical with bags of Christmas spirit. The cast danced, sang and acted with energy and fun was had by all. This is the first time Pool Hayes has performed a musical at Christmas and what a way to start. We hope to see students displaying this much talent at the January auditions for our next musical.

YEAR 7 POSTCARDS

Dear Beacon Primary School,
I have settled in great and
I have made many friends. I
miss you all. xxx

From Logan.

**Beacon
Primary School**

Dear Miss Evans,

Woodlands Academy of Learning
Pool Hayes is going
great. I am really enjoying it. I have
found my way around the school
now and know where I am
going. Hope your new class are
ok.

Love Taliah Alves xxx

**Woodlands
Academy of Learning**

Dear / Reedswood

X I am getting on well in Secondary school
I have made a load of friends and
my favourite subject is art but my favourite
after school club is dance. I am doing
a play in the musical. I am missing
primary and all those trips. But I now
have a trip for ice skating. I am finding
it easy so far and I always go to
dance. From,
Elizabeth Reedswood E-act Academy

Reedswood
E-ACT Primary Academy



Dear Mr Taver/Pool Hayes

I love it here at Pool Hayes, I have made
friends and I am in the netball team and
already played a match but sadly we didn't win.
I have only had two comments and one detention
but in a week all the time I have around
fifty-five stamps if not more so I am all
good.

At dinner time I take part in drama club and
Keyboard Club at dinner times. I enjoy it the most
and science but in science the class is so
annoying but my teacher thinks I'm the best she ever
said it to me. I miss you
From Katie Owen

Dear Mr Shea

New Invention
Junior School
I love it here at Pool Hayes.
I have made many friends.
You are still the best teacher.
Miss all of the teachers
at New Invention.

From Jess Jeffries

**NEW INVENTION
JUNIOR SCHOOL**

To Barcroft primary,

Pool Hayes is a brilliant school for anyone who has
successfully completed primary school... So let me tell
you about my year so far. My favorite lesson so
far is Maths and Art, but the thing primary
has definitely not got are... the
house points (stamps for working well in lessons).
So now you know what my life is
like in secondary school, you can share it
with everyone.

Yours sincerely, from Bradley.



To Fibbersley Park Academy.

I have had a wonderful time here at Pool Hayes. I have
been taking part in many activities and I have been making
new friends. I have recently been going to art club and having
fun exploring many different styles to draw.

Paige Hale



**Oak Meadow
Primary School**

Oak Meadow Primary School, Ashmore
Park.
Dear Mr Arnold,

I am settling in well I have
lots of new friends I am above
in maths I am gaining more
and more confidence.

I Miss You all especially
You though xxx From Evie Wright

To Mrs Fellows

I hope your new class is
as good as we were. I am
in the set for everything thanks
to you. The work is extremely
hard especially without you.
Thank you for making learning fun
I miss your life stories. Miss
you so much all my love.

Erin xxx



TO PRIMARY SCHOOLS

To, Short Heath Junior

Dear Miss Jeavons

I am having a really good time at Pool
Hayes. I really like having different lessons
and have made new friends. My favourite
lesson is maths because it's fun and
I have grown in confidence

from
Megan Woolley





A NIGHT WITH THE STARS

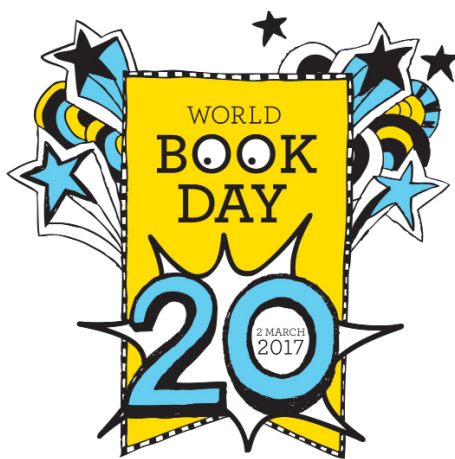
Our annual dance show "A Night with the Stars" will be taking place on Wednesday 8th & Thursday 9th of February 2017. All of our dancers are already preparing for the show by regularly attending lunch and after school club. Meanwhile our Year 11 GCSE students are working hard to choreograph their own performance pieces that will be showcased as part of their coursework. The evenings are very popular and highlight the talent of Pool Hayes Academy dancers!

SKIING TRIP

This coming Easter holidays Pool Hayes pupils will embark on the journey to St Anton Austria for the schools annual ski trip. St Anton is voted one of the best ski resorts in the world! It is easy to see why with over 500km of piste and excellent snow records each year. It is also a celebrity hotspot so we may even bump into a famous star or two on the slopes! The days will be action packed with skiing all day enjoying the amazing scenery and breathtaking views followed by various evening entertainments of sledging, ten pin bowling, ice skating, spa nights and also shopping.

CAREERS WEEK

In February Pool Hayes will be hosting Staffordshire University Great Minds Bus Tour where students get to talk to ambassadors and see what the university has to offer for them. The tour encourages our students to learn about the benefits of higher education, the positive impact a degree will have on their lives and what university life is like. We will also be taking part in a project to engage more closely with employers.



NEW YORK TRIP

Next term we will be giving our pupils a USA style experience they'll never forget with our fantastic educational sessions, workshops and tours covering topics such as TV and film production, moving image and sound at the most popular city in the world. We will be visiting many top New York media organisations to provide students with an unbeatable school trip to this dazzling city that is guaranteed to leave them feeling excited and inspired. Alongside enhancing knowledge on media, students will visit popular locations we are all familiar with.

WORLD BOOK DAY

During March next year, Pool Hayes library will mark World Book Day with a number of events and competitions. Year 9 students will be entertained and educated by the electrifying author Dave Cousins, Year 8 students will participate in creative writing workshops, led by Wolverhampton University, and Year 7 students will speed date with some well-known book characters, and compete in Battle of the Books. Students have much to look forward to with many exciting new learning experiences within the near future.

NATIONAL STORY TELLING WEEK

National Storytelling week arrives at Pool Hayes in a big way. From guest speakers and bespoke workshops; narrative writing competitions to storytellers on tour, we have it all. A house challenge will be set at the start of the week asking each form to create and write a short story inspired by a multi-cultural proverb, with the winning form not only earning house points but also a Tolkien treat. Teachers of Pool Hayes will take to the Jackanory chair for a video story to be shown in form time each morning.

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