



Pool Hayes
Academy

Pool Hayes Academy

Newsletter

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DIARY DATES

24th April 2017

Term Starts

21st-23rd June 2017

School of Rock

30th June

Year 11 Leavers Assembly

5th July 2017

Year 11 Prom

7th July

Sports Day

17th August 2017

Sixth Form Results Day

24th August

Year 11 Results Day 2017

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WORLD BOOK DAY

A dahlicious day of marvellous treats was had by those lucky enough to have had a golden ticket to attend the Google Expeditions V.R sessions. Key Stage 3 students were then fortunate enough to be submerged in the magical world of Roald Dahl and his stories. Years 10 and 11 were enthralled with the distinctive sights of landmarks such as the Grand Canyon, Mount Rushmore and Yosemite national park. Some were plunged into the oceans of the Caribbean, the Peruvian jungle, the trenches of World War I and even the moon. There was a fantastic response to each and every one of these sessions and fun was had by all!



Holiday Update

TERM STARTS: MONDAY 24TH APRIL

HALF TERM: 29TH MAY - FRIDAY 2ND JUNE

SUMMER HOLIDAYS START: FRIDAY 21ST JULY



This term has been packed with activities, trips, success, achievement and some fantastic learning across the Academy. A real focus for the term has been about challenging pupils to aim high – both in what they do in school and in their aspirations for the future. Year 9 options evening was supported by local business leaders coming in and being interviewed by the pupils about their backgrounds and their jobs. For some it was the hardest interviews they have ever faced! A massive time commitment from all our visitors and the Black Country Skills Factory but such a valuable opportunity for our pupils as they consider their futures. Who knows, maybe some of them will end up being as successful as Kallum Ghandum in Year 13 who has just been selected for an apprenticeship at Jaguar Landrover for which there were over 4000 applicants!

Well done to Kallum and everyone else in the Sixth Form who have been given apprenticeships, jobs and places at University next year.

National Storytelling Week and World Book Day have both served to remind us just how important reading is for our youngsters. As Year 11 prepare for some of the hardest exams faced by 16 year olds, it is worth remembering what part good levels of literacy play in exam success. Even in Maths, pupils will struggle to be able to understand the lengthy questions if their literacy skills are not up to scratch. We have committed a great deal of resources at Pool Hayes to support pupils with weak literacy skills with a discreet programme in Years 7-9, Accelerated Reader, a redesigned library and numerous literacy events that go on throughout the year (who can forget Mr Stokes and the leotard clad wrestlers?). I would ask you all, no matter how good a reader your child is, to support them by encouraging them to read at home as often as possible. It will make a massive difference to their outcomes.

The final term of the year, although short for years 11 and 13, somehow always manages to be the busiest. With Easter being late this year, the exams will be upon us before we know it and Year 11 in particular will move from stressing about their revision and their exams to the bigger stress about the colour of their prom dress. Year 13, for many, will be entering into the scary world of student finance and paying bills for the first time after that little issue of completing their A Levels and BTECs. For the rest of the Academy we have Sports Day, the results of various House competitions, themed weeks on refugees, futures and the armed forces. Not to mention practice exams, assessments and tests. We will also be welcoming the next intake of pupils into Year 7 for their induction days. This will prove to be our biggest year group yet as we are oversubscribed again next year.

As always none of the above would be possible without the support of our fantastic pupils and their parents and most of all the dedicated staff team at Pool Hayes who always go above and beyond for our pupils. There are uncertain times ahead in schools across the country with the changes to curriculum and not least the massive cuts to our budgets we are facing, but the team here will continue to provide the excellent all-round education that our young people deserve.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'L. Baker'.

Luke Baker
Principal



CAREERS WEEK

During Careers Week we had speakers from Newcastle and Cambridge universities telling students about the benefits of Higher Education. Year 9s had a Speed Dating style event with local employers to find out what qualifications and skills they needed within the different job sectors. The National Citizen Service (NCS) were on hand to tell students about their residential programme and how it helps students gain transferable skills which can be used within both education and employment. We also had a careers quiz and a competition and then our grand finale was a balloon launch. This was a really successful careers week and the feedback from students about the events was very positive.



BALLOON LAUNCH

At the end of careers week we saw the release of balloons to celebrate the high aspirations of our students. We had a fantastic week with numerous Universities, training providers and colleges in school, as well as some fantastic enterprise events with a huge range of local employers. The week was brilliant and students were all keen to get involved and think about their future options.



RUSSELL GROUP

Pool Hayes students were invited to take part in activities and talks run by representatives from Newcastle and Cambridge Universities which are part of the prestigious Russell Group. Our Year 7 and Year 8 students looked at how different jobs required specific subjects to get onto a degree course and then what jobs you might be able to do with that degree. Year 9 and Year 10 looked at the wide range of degrees offered by universities and what they might expect from life as a student, whilst our Year 12 students were advised to do a lot of research into their chosen course and look closely at the topics covered within it to make sure it is the course for them.



YEAR 9 SPEED DATING

On Tuesday our Y9 students took part in a speed dating event with employers. Students had just five minutes with their 'Date' to find out about their job role and what qualifications they might need to enter this career. Students asked a lot of questions including what their date liked and disliked about their job. Some of our guests had also changed pathways during their career and students were keen to find out why this was and what had motivated them to make that change. This event allowed our students to speak to employers from a wide range of job sectors gaining a real insight into the variety of job roles and qualification routes available to them.



STORYTELLING WEEK

During Story Telling Week Pool Hayes welcomed Story John for a storytelling workshop helping year 7 unlock some tricks of the trade. Our storytellers went on tour bringing classrooms to a halt with a dramatic reading. We welcomed Maria from the University of Wolverhampton to discuss the benefits of trans-media. Our very own drama ambassadors staged a workshop 'From the Page to the Stage' with selected Year 8 students, showing them the process of taking a script and adapting it for a performance. Finally, Jubilee Academy were able to join us for a storytelling workshop led by very eager and confident year 7 students.



AUTHOR DAVE COUSINS

On Monday approximately 60 Yr9 students attended the Dave Cousins author event, in the lecture theatre. Dave's writing career began aged ten, with an attempt to create a script for Fawlty Towers. He has been writing songs, poems and stories ever since. Dave began with a reading from '15 Days Without a Head', moved onto his own colourful life story, and finished off with a reading from another of his titles, 'Waiting for Gonzo'. From beginning, middle and end Dave captivated his audience, with tales of his childhood and youth, but especially the compelling content of his incredibly humorous, compassionate and empathetic books.



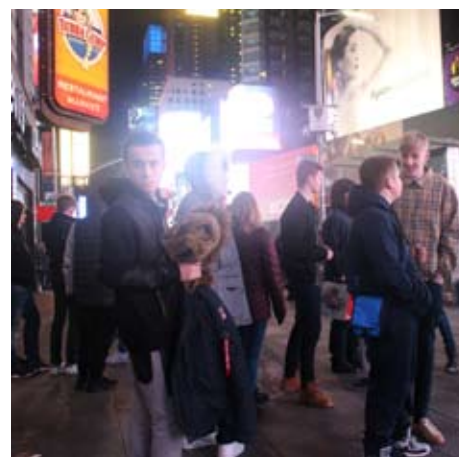
NUMERACY DAY

On the 3rd March, Pool Hayes Academy celebrated the achievements of mathematicians such as Alan Turing by having their annual Code Breaking Numeracy Day. The day involved over 200 year 7 students who were taken back in time to world War II and the amazing impact that code breaking had during that time which was of course an important part of our British history. The students were faced with a modern day scenario and enjoying watching our sixth form students at work whilst they kidnapped the Heads of House and hid them in a secret location. The 200 students had to race against time to solve the clues by using code breaking techniques such as Caesar Shifts, letter frequency and also using a scytale!



E-SAFETY WEEK

The focus for E-safety week this year was based around images and information posted on the internet and social media. During the week Year 8 attended a workshop in the hall where they undertook various activities that included looking at the use of emoji's in communication and creating fake profiles. Year 10 also had a workshop where they looked more closely at the law surrounding 'sexting' the taking and sharing of images, as well as online relationships with strangers and the consequences of meeting people that you meet online, through high profile cases involving Kayleigh Haywood and Breck Bednar.



NEW YORK TRIP

As part of the annual media tour our students had the opportunity to visit the largest media market in the world, New York! The tour was planned so students had the opportunity to visit all the iconic wonders of the city but also see how different media sectors operated and influenced the media we see around us. Some of our media highlights included our city tour, where we were shown where well-known TV programmes such as Friends were filmed. The coach tour also followed where the blockbuster 'Day After Tomorrow', was filmed in the famous New York Library. Students enjoyed many media related experiences, but the fun didn't stop there. We had the city view from Top of the Rock observatory, visited Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty.



MANCHESTER UNITED

Pool Hayes pupils got the opportunity to visit one of the world's iconic football stadiums. They went to watch a Europa league football match at Manchester United's stadium, Old Trafford. The match was a second leg game against the Russian team Rostov. The first leg ended 1-1 so United needed a win. They started a very strong team including the world's most expensive player Paul Pogba. The atmosphere inside the theatre of dreams was buzzing with 60,000 plus fans in attendance. The game wasn't the most excited one but the home team got the result they needed with a 70th minute winner from Juan Mata. It was a fantastic experience for all the pupils and the first ever football game for some.



ALCOHOL AWARENESS

This term, year 9 students took part in an alcohol awareness morning that was based around learning from their Ethics lessons. Students engaged in a 1-hour theatre presentation that focused on the potential consequences and dangers of alcohol misuse and cannabis use. They also took part in a Jeremy Kyle style chat show where they aired their views on alcohol misuse. Kyle Kainth was possibly the star of the show by volunteering to take part in role play again showing the dangers and consequences of alcohol abuse. As one student commented "You have your own choices, you don't always have to say yes, you can say no. I am more aware of the consequences".



ACCELERATED READER

Pictured above are some of the Academy's Star Readers in Year 7 and 8. They have made excellent progress with their reading, all are either at or above expected levels of progress, and are amongst a number of the most engaged with the school's Accelerated Reader program. Their attitude and application towards advancing their ability to read, through reading practice, is praiseworthy. They are brilliant envoys of reading for enjoyment.



A NIGHT WITH THE STARS

Congratulations to all of the dancers that performed in the whole school dance show. Again the talent and passion for dance is forever increasing and each and every single one of our students should be extremely proud. We are proud to see not only how the skill and technique of the dancers has improved over the years but how positive relationships have been built within the department making it a welcoming and supportive environment. Dance club at lunch and after school is not only a club where the dancers immerse themselves in performance and choreography but almost a haven where many friendships are made across the wide age range, where confidence is developed and where creativity is welcomed and celebrated.

YEAR 11 LEAVERS



**HODSON
HOUSE**

**VAUGHAN
HOUSE**

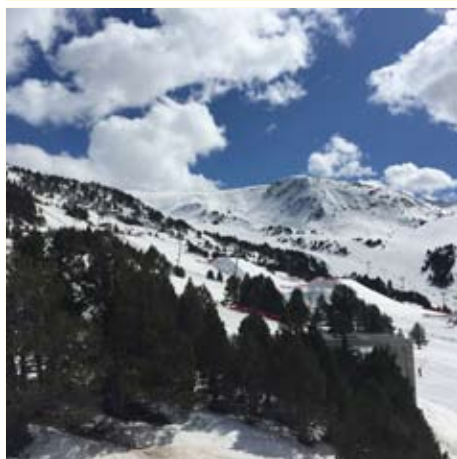


**TILDESLEY
HOUSE**

**PARKES
HOUSE**



**CARPENTER
HOUSE**



ANNUAL SKIING TRIP

Just over a month to go till Pool Hayes hit the slopes for the annual Easter skiing trip. This year we are travelling to the world-renowned resort of St Anton in Austria. If it is good enough for the likes of the Royal Family its good enough for us at Pool Hayes. There is plenty of snow there for us to play with and more expected in the weeks to come. If the sun is shining it will most definitely be a memorable trip. The countdown is on boys and girls, not long now at all.



SCHOOL OF ROCK

The Drama, Dance and Music departments are getting excited as we approach opening night of our school show this year, 'The School of Rock'. Students are working extremely hard on the performance and scenes are now taking shape. Performances are going to take place on 21st, 22nd, 23rd June starting at 7pm. As we always look forward to your fantastic support on the show nights and hope that you enjoy the show.



SPORTS DAY

As the summer term approaches, the Physical Education department prepares for summer activities and its annual school sports day. This year, sports day is to be held on Friday 7th July where pupils compete in track and field events to gain points for their house. Throughout the summer term, athletics, rounders and cricket are the key areas of focus within the programme of study and the school will be entered into school fixtures against schools across the borough. The last competition on the calendar is the Walsall Athletics Championships where Pool Hayes have been successful in the past and been placed within the top two schools for many years.



YEAR 11 LEAVERS

Following the success of last year's Leavers' Assembly we have decided to once again mark the end of the examination period with a special assembly for our current Year 11 pupils. This will take place on Friday 30th June, beginning at 9:00am. This assembly will be an opportunity for staff and pupils to reminisce and to share some of the many fond and entertaining memories this year group have made during their time at Pool Hayes. Breakfast and tissues will be provided! Pupils will be issued with a ticket showing their name and photograph which will allow them access to the school site on the morning of the assembly.



YEAR 11 PROM

This year's prom will be held on Wednesday 5th July from 7:00 – 11:00pm at The Chase Golf, Health Club and Spa in Penkridge and we hope that, as in previous years, it will be a night to remember. Currently the Prom Committee are busily working on the yearbook and final arrangements for the evening to include a candy cart, an official photographer and an inflatable LED photo booth. The buzz of excitement is already evident as pupils begin to plan their outfits and of course their chosen mode of transport to the venue. It will be interesting to see what they come up with this year not just the traditionally favoured limos but a range of more unusual choices such as a fire engine and even an ice-cream van!



YEAR 11 RESULTS DAY

Year 11 Results Day starts on the morning of Thursday 24th August and in many ways represents the biggest day in the academy year as the future pathways of so many students are decided in one fell swoop. The result certificates will be given out in the Sixth Form Centre and teaching staff and Careers Advisors will be on hand to support students in getting onto their preferred pathway. Naturally, many of our students stay on in our excellent Sixth Form so there is often just a quick check on course grades ready for Y12 Induction at the start of September. The students and staff have given 100% so let's hope the summer brings success for as many people as possible.

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