



Issue 04 | March 2018 | www.poolhayes.attrust.org.uk | 01902 368147

DIARY DATES

16th April

Additional Staff Development Day

14th May

External Exams begin

20th July

Term Ends

16th August

Sixth Form Results Day

23rd August

Year 11 Results Day

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GCSE SUCCESS BECKONS ONCE AGAIN!

When any school boasts such amazing results as the Art department achieved last year the difficulty is following them up in subsequent years. Mrs Kew and her team are naturally proud of what last year's pupils achieved but we are pleased to say that this year's pieces seem even better (albeit to my untrained eye!). This is a testament to the hard work and dedication of the staff and pupils in Art and a fantastic benchmark to set for the rest of the Academy to emulate. As you might imagine, work is well un-



der way in this regard and every other department are hot on their heels!

Do look on the school website for more fantastic examples...

Holiday Update

TERM STARTS: TUESDAY 17TH APRIL 2018

HALF TERM: MONDAY 28TH MAY TO FRIDAY 1ST JUNE

TERM FINISHES: FRIDAY 20TH JULY 2018



Principal's Update

This term seems to have flown by at Pool Hayes with so much happening and so many great things to report. Years 11, 12 and 13 have been very well prepared for their Spring mock exams and the results have been very promising—significantly higher than at this time last year which is a testament to the great effort that is being made to succeed, and to the responsibility of our learners to knuckle down when it matters. Elsewhere in the school we have had sports success, drama, dance and music performances and every day great learning happening. With snow days and the cold weather hopefully very much behind us, we can look forward to the summer term and continued success for all at Pool Hayes.

As you will be aware, we are always striving to make improvements at Pool Hayes and I am conscious that there have been a great deal of changes in recent years. I have recently shared an evolved vision for the school that has been developed with pupils, staff and parents and which, we feel, cuts to the core purpose of what we are about—namely being an inclusive academy in which barriers to learning, engagement, community and relational development are prioritised and where there is a focus on breaking generational cycles of low aspirations, self-esteem and poverty. This may not be relevant to all, but I am determined to ensure that everyone of our young people, no matter what might stand in their way, has the opportunity to thrive and to become a success. As a result, all systems, policies and procedures at Pool Hayes will be subject to this very simple question—does it help us achieve our vision? If the answer is 'no' we will look to amend or replace it with something that does.

It is very much for this reason that we are now reviewing our pastoral system at Pool Hayes. You will be aware that in the summer of 2015 we moved to our current 'House System' which includes vertical tutoring of Key Stage 3 and 4 pupils, Head of House pastoral leads and linked Senior Team members to each house. The benefits of this have been many with pupils across the age groups getting to know each other better and sharing their experiences and support for others in tutor time. The Houses have been rigorous in their competitions with each other with the traditional sport competitions being joined by literacy, numeracy, community and achievement competitions to name but a few. Our Heads of House work tirelessly to both support our youngsters pastorally as well as be the loudest cheerleaders in every event.

Despite the numerous success stories, it has become evident that the newest members of the community in Year 7, and for those in Year 11 who face the most stress (particularly at this time of year with the onset of the new, far more rigorous GCSEs) would benefit from more tailored and focused support. Our school community is growing as smaller year groups higher up the school are replaced by much larger year groups in Year 7 where we are once again heavily oversubscribed. It is therefore vital that we are prepared for this moving into September, hence the changes suggested which will help support our new arrivals. I am very keen to get as many opinions and suggestions on this as possible and to aid this process I have made a new proposal on pages 6 and 7 of this newsletter. Please read on for more information, and do let me and the Governors know of your views.

Have a great Easter, a good holiday and go easy on the chocolate!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Luke Baker'.

Luke Baker, Principal

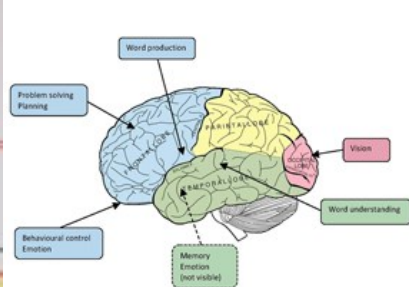


On Monday 12th March Danielle and Jade two veterinary nurses from Lockwoods Veterinary Practice in Willenhall took time away from their very busy jobs to come into school and talk to our students who are interested in a career with animals.

Danielle told students that theirs was not a typical 9-5 job and that they worked 10 hour shifts, week-ends and bank holidays. If an emergency came in towards the end of a shift, they would stay to deal with it. Danielle told students that the job was not always about dealing with the cute and fluffy animals. They often care for the animals that are being treated and also help to educate owners on how to look after their pets.

Careers Week at Pool Hayes

As part of our Careers Week this year which ran between 5th - 9th March our students were encouraged to think about their futures and to in some cases begin to map out pathways for them to achieve their dreams. Students had the opportunity to sit in on talks from our visiting speakers taking place during lunch time in our Lecture Theatre. We also had a careers power point running in our foyer all week giving information on some popular careers and also a few unusual ones. Students also had the chance to attend sessions on college applications and CV writing. As part of the week our Y9 students chose their GCSE Options and for many their choice of subject will be linked to their career aspirations.



On Monday we welcomed Litsa Cosma into our school to talk about Psychology and her training to become an Educational Psychologist. Many psychologists specialise in either a clinical, counselling or educational setting. Educational psychologists help children or young people who are experiencing problems that hinder their successful learning and participation in school and other activities. These problems can include a range of emotional and social problems or learning difficulties.

On Wednesday 7th March two members of the RSGB Martyn and Jim visited Pool Hayes to give a talk to our sixth form students about amateur radio.

Amateur radio is a technical hobby and unlike your mobile phone, with radio you never know who you are going to talk to as there are users all over the world. Our own Mr Jones is a Licenced amateur and explained to the students that he has spoken to the Ontario Science Museum in Canada and has also picked up signals from the International Space Station. Students were surprised at the vast range of the hobby, from space communication, directional radio finding to just having a chat with somebody on the other side of the world.

The students were encouraged to get their Foundation Licence, which Mr Jones said he would help them with.



New York Trip 2018

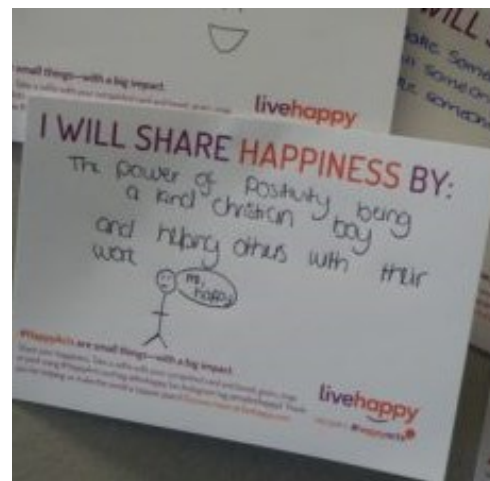
What an incredible week! We are all a little worn out but have stories that will last us a lifetime.

The students were fantastic! They represented the academy immaculately and were a credit to their parents and our community. It was an absolute pleasure to have them with us and their attitude and behaviour was second to none.



A Level student heads 'Stateside'

Sixth former Joe Reynolds, recently travelled with a football squad to Charlotte, North Carolina. Over the week he played against multiple American colleges, with players from both America and Europe. In his squad, (ages 16-18) were players from England, Ireland, Northern Ireland, Wales, and Croatia. The schedule during the week was strict, compact, and busy, simulating what life will soon be like living as a college student.



Happiness Wall to spread the joy

The 20th March was International Happiness Day. Not only did our very own Mr Dean win the Happiest Person in the World award, but form T7 made a "Happiness Wall" with lots of positive thoughts and deeds for International Happiness Day. Another win for Tildesley and a great achievement for all involved.



Year 7 pupils have been learning about 'Autism awareness' in their L2L/PSHE lessons.

This is the first of a number of sessions, which focuses on assumptions in society and how pupils shouldn't make assumptions about how someone looks.

All pupils showed great engagement whilst working on the tasks and contributed positively throughout.

Thanks to Mrs Williams who is our Ace Base Lead in the Academy for delivering the sessions.



Special thanks to the academy's resident actors Connor, Megan and Amber, and film editor Chelsea, for making this World Book Day event so memorable.

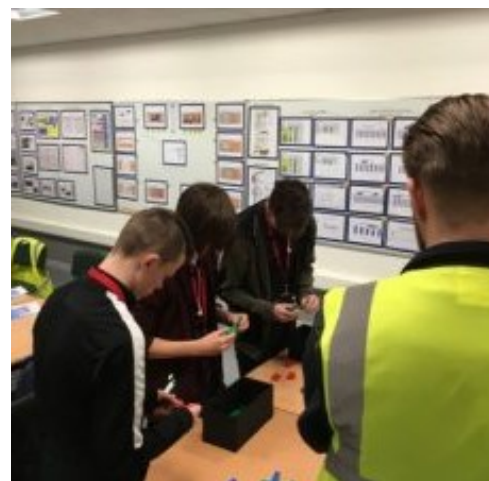
On World Book Day, Year 7 and Year 9 students participated in a number of activities in the library, to celebrate books and reading.

On arrival, the Year 7 students were greeted by Gangsta Granny, before being thoroughly entertained by the Year 12 Drama artistes. Their spoof rendition of a 21st century tabloid talk show, about the 'human condition', which featured the

two main characters from the 19th century novel 'Frankenstein', by Mary Shelly, was well received.

Audience participation, a key element of the live show allowed the Year 7s to decide 'who the REAL monster was'. The pendulum of truth swung firmly in favour of the monster. The majority found his account of the dreadful pain and suffering he experienced through rejection and isolation, and the appalling ill treatment and inexcusable neglect the perpetrator, Dr Frankenstein had inflicted upon him, very conclusive. Few were persuaded by the soulless Dr Victor Frankenstein's Machiavellian version of events.

Year 9 students turned book detectives during the activity, Lost the Plot, and book critics through Talking Books. The main objectives of the activities were to correctly identify book titles (contemporary fiction and classics), and the main characters, before locating the corresponding plot, and then rate the plot, main characters and book overall, based on the two key elements.



Horizon Students visit ZF

On the 1st March 2018 22 Y7 and Y10 students who are part of the Horizons project were lucky enough to visit ZF Lemforder UK Ltd, a leading automotive supplier which has a factory in Darlston. The ZF Group, is a global leader in driveline and chassis technology with 121 production companies in 26 countries. ZF is one of the ten largest automotive suppliers worldwide supplying suspension control arms to Jaguar, Aston Martin and Toyota and Jaguar Land Rover.



Our students were able to experience first-hand their in-house training centre where they completed timed tasks which tested their hand eye co-ordination and problem solving skills. It got quite competitive at times as the boys tried to outdo each other in both expertise and timings. They particularly liked the Lego building exercise which got the students working both independently and then coming together to work as a team. Some blamed their lower output 'in never having Lego as a child' they said this put them at a distinct disadvantage.

This was repudiated by the others in the group amongst much teasing and laughter. Students also went on a factory tour seeing for themselves the different areas from the offices, metrology and testing labs to the factory floor seeing the manufacturing of the parts both manually and robotically.

Our thanks go to ZF staff who looked after us we had a brilliant time and really appreciated the time and effort they put into hosting us.



Night, the school's Pottersmore Book Club invited the Year 7 and 8 students to attend the Harry Potter Book Night/Fantastic Beasts party, in the library. The main event, the HP brainteaser quiz was won by the witches and wizards of Hufflepuff house. Congratulations to them for flying high to victory, their team were the most magical chasers, keepers, beaters and seekers, and each one a worthy winner of a copy of the first book in the Harry Potter series, The Philosopher's Stone.

National Storytelling Week was celebrated here at Pool Hayes starting week beginning 29th January with a range of activities centred around storytelling. There were a number of competitions over the course of the week; a form group literature quiz, an author anagram hunt and a personal writing competition. Various audiobooks were being read by a selection of celebrities in the foyer; from Animal Farm to Harry Potter and musical soundtracks that follow a narrative arc.

During the course of National Storytelling Week (27th January-3rd February), KS3 students were given additional opportunities to express themselves creatively, through a variety of storytelling events, in the library.

Monday – Wednesday: After listening purely to the beginning and middle of an unusual tale, some very intrigued Year 7 students put pen to paper, to create their own version of the ending of the short story, before the telling of tales resumed.

Thursday: To celebrate Harry Potter Book

Friday: Year 7 and 8 students' surreal adventure began with art works created by some of the most famous surrealist artists; Salvador Dali, Frida Karlo and Merit Oppenheim. The images really helped unlock the students' imaginations, as a result, they were able to produce far-fetched creations, which included an assortment of characters, trying to endure, escape or enjoy dreamlike situations or landscapes. Many thanks to the Duke of Edinburgh library volunteers, for leading the event, and supporting the younger students.

Proposed change to the pastoral system

From September 2018 the proposal is to run a combination horizontal and vertical pastoral system.

We will continue with houses. This is a key part of developing the strong relationships, the teamwork and the enjoyment of school that are at the core of our vision. However, it is felt that we need to have a more bespoke support programme in place for Year 7 to aid their transition to secondary school, and for Year 11 to prepare them for their GCSEs and transition to Post 16. The Head of Year 11 will take on responsibility for all pastoral issues and academic progress for that year group. They will work closely with the Heads of House to ensure a smooth transition in the final half term of Year 10. Throughout year 11 they will work closely with the outcomes and behaviour leads.

The Head of Year 7 will work closely with the Transitions lead in the final half term of year 6. They will then work closely with the outcomes and behaviour leads.

Below is a summary of the proposed structure and possible staffing of this. It will of course have wide reaching impact across the school, but these will need to be considered in light of the affect they have on being able to achieve our vision for Pool Hayes moving forward.



Year 11

6 tutor groups – 2 of these tutor groups will be in each House. This will enable the pupils to share in House enrichment and community activities.

3 Intervention Tutor Groups – these will be for specific intervention in Ebacc subjects and will be used as and when intervention is required, drawing pupils from the 6 tutor groups.

Head of Year – this role will be a change of role for one of our existing Heads of House. They will be responsible for the pastoral support of the year group, along with ensuring year group participation in the House System.

Year 7

9 tutor groups – 3 tutor groups in each House. This will enable the pupils to share in House enrichment and community activities.

Head of Year - this role will be a change of role for one of our existing Heads of House. They will be responsible for the pastoral support of the year group, along with ensuring year group participation in the House System. They will also have the additional responsibility of primary liaison to ensure that the transition into year 7 begins in the summer term of year 6.

It is expected that Year 7 will take a full part in all house competitions and will be closely aligned to the houses with older pupils helping to facilitate this.

Years 8, 9 and 10

These three year groups will be in a vertical tutoring system. Tutor groups will therefore have an equal split of approximately 8 pupils from each year group.

There will be 8 tutor groups in each House, one of which will belong to the Lead Tutor.

The Lead Tutor role will be a development opportunity open to any tutor within each House. The role will help support the Head of House primarily in championing the House Competitions around the school.

Head of House – there will be three Heads of House who will be enrichment leads for each of the three Houses and the pastoral lead for members of years 8, 9 and 10 in their House.

In addition to these change to the pastoral system we would like to enhance the PSHEE and Assembly programme. You will be aware that we currently have an extensive Personal Social Health and Economic Education programme that is run through tutor time, drop down days and assemblies. From next year we will be making the following changes...

PSHEE

The PSHE programme will continue to have focus weeks and assemblies themed on these, however we will offer a discreet programme based on a new PSHEE and Learning to Learn model. These will be delivered in 30 minute sessions every Wednesday afternoon. **To facilitate more staff development time, school will finish at 2:30pm every Wednesday.** This will enable an extra 45 minutes a week of department training which will focus on improving the planning and resources of every department in the school.

Assemblies

There will continue to be an assembly every morning but these will alternate on a fortnightly basis. Week A will be House assemblies which will include Years 7 and 11. Week B will be Year group assemblies beginning on Mondays with Year 11. These will be led by SLT and the Heads of Years 7 and 11.

We appreciate that these changes are not straightforward and represent a clear shift from what we currently have, however ,it is felt that a new focus for the pastoral structure at Pool Hayes will enable us to make real progress on our journey to achieving our vision for our school community. It is, however, important that you have your say in these changes that will affect your child. We would therefore be grateful if you could respond to this consultation with your views and any suggestions you might have to the following email address... pastoralconsultation@poolhayes.attrust.org.uk or feel free to drop them off via your child at the Student Support Office.

Every opinion and suggestion will be considered and although we will not reply to every email, we will nevertheless contact all stakeholders in the coming weeks with the outcomes of the consultation and the answers to any queries that may have been posed.

To aid you with this we have suggested the following areas that you may wish to comment on...

Reducing to three houses from 5 and the impact on house competitions

The mixture of vertical and horizontal tutoring

The role of Heads of Year and Heads of House

The likely impact of these changes on pupils, staff and parent

The changes to PSHE and assemblies

Any other general comments

and finally...

Science Week Workshops 2018

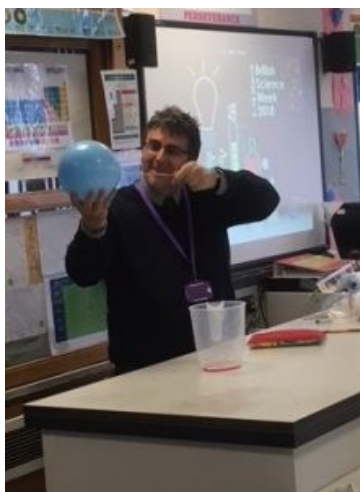
On Friday 23rd March over 70 pupils from year 7, 8 and 9 were invited to take part in British Science Week workshops with Mr Bickley from ATT. The pupils who took part were nominated by their class teachers as a reward based on their efforts, achievement and scientific skills shown in lessons this year.

Year 7 were involved in a workshop linked to Isaac Newton and his laws of motion, and were really excited to find out how things like hot air balloons and aeroplanes fly through a range of fun experiments. All of the pupils were really enthusiastic about the workshop and loved being involved in the experiments and discussions that followed.

Year 8 and 9 were involved in a

workshop involving many everyday items, experiments included finding out why eggs are so strong, how nappies work (using a demonstration that involved tipping a glass of water over a pupil without getting them wet at all) and how to make a fire extinguisher. Pupils again got fully involved in the experiments taking place and really enjoyed the session.

Thanks to Mr Bickley from ATT for his time and to all pupils involved for showing how great our pupils are.



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