

The Key

UNLOCKING
OUR POTENTIAL

AUTUMN TERM 2020
ISSUE 02



Pool Hayes
Academy



THE RESULTS ARE IN...

Congratulations
to our students!

IN THIS ISSUE:

GCSE and A-Level results

Community Links

Lockdown Showcase



Welcome

To our first edition of 'The Key' this academic year, a newsletter to recognise and celebrate the fantastic achievements of both staff and students here at Pool Hayes Academy.



GCSE results show that we are amongst the most improved secondary schools in the Walsall authority."

We hope that you and your families are safe and well. It is amazing to have our academy fully open again to all students. Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you for your support during recent times. Our students have returned to the academy looking immaculate. There is a real sense of pride in how students are wearing their uniform. It has been excellent to receive messages from members of our local community who have commented on how smart Pool Hayes students look and how they are a credit to the academy. Thank you also to all parents and carers for their continued support with this.

Both GCSE and A level qualifications achieved by our students in the summer have given our young people great opportunities as they embark on further study and university, apprenticeships or enter the world of work. Excellent qualifications coupled with the PHA skills and attributes our students develop will set them apart from others in a competitive job market. Results across the academy indicate that we are on the right track to become an outstanding academy in the future. GCSE results show that we are amongst the most improved secondary schools in the Walsall authority. Our Mathematics results also place us in the top 1% of all schools nationally, in terms of improvement in progress.

We have continued to update our learning facilities and resources to support the high quality teaching and learning that takes place here. We will strive to continually improve the environment around the academy in the same way that we will tirelessly strive to improve the delivery of teaching and learning and extra-curricular activities which make up the school experience, as a whole. We have been delighted to welcome our new Year 7 and Year 12 students and our outstanding new staff to the academy. We are very proud of being an academy of choice for them and we sincerely hope their experience at PHA will be fulfilling.

We continue to make links with higher education establishments and employers to support our students, as well as holding charitable events. Thank you to all of our partners.

The academy community raised significant funds for good causes this year and this will continue throughout the coming months as we look to do all we can to improve the lives of others. I am looking forward to seeing our young people get involved in this work alongside our extensive extra-curricular programme.

Thank you for your ongoing support, especially during these challenging times.

Phillipa Harris
Principal



Pool Hayes
Academy

WHOLE SCHOOL

Results show hard work and perseverance is paying off

Students and staff at Pool Hayes Academy are celebrating after validated GCSE results show that the academy is one of the most improved in the authority.

Additionally, the Mathematics department at Pool Hayes Academy has been recognised as being in the top one per cent of improved departments nationally, based on the progress measures released by the DFE and is ranked as 26 out of over 3,000 schools across the country.

Mathematics' progress leapt by 0.85 in the 2018-2019 academic year with the department securing a one grade improvement in the last two years.

Commitment

The Department of Education figures are evidence to the hard work, drive and perseverance of staff and the commitment and resilience of the students at Pool Hayes Academy. This follows on from a successful Ofsted for the department in September 2018, who recognised the strong teaching and much improved outcomes.

Principal Phillipa Harris said: "We are extremely proud of all students and staff who have focused relentlessly on improving outcomes.

"It is an amazing achievement for our Mathematics' progress data to place us in the top one per cent nationally. It is also fantastic that we have seen clear improvements in whole school data, which has secured our position



Pool Hayes Academy is one of the most improved schools in the area

as one of the most improved secondary schools in the authority.

"The guidance and support from our excellent Pool Hayes staff have been key to this success."

Vince Green, Regional Education Director for the Academy Transformation Trust, said: "We are

pleased with our students' results at Pool Hayes Academy. These reflect the hard work and dedication of students and staff. The improvements made demonstrate the drive for sustained improvement at the academy. Congratulations to all of our young people on their achievements."

ANNOUNCEMENT

We are very proud to announce that Pool Hayes Academy achieved the Teach Well School Gold Award!

The physical and mental wellbeing of our staff is equally important to us as the wellbeing of our students, so we are thrilled to have our values acknowledged formally.



Home Learning Legends!

Our staff and students worked tirelessly during lockdown to ensure that learning at Pool Hayes Academy never stopped.

We were in awe of our students' work effort, commitment and resilience throughout this difficult time. A big thank you to all of you for your exemplary effort and also to our staff, for ensuring our students academic progress continued in spite of the challenges faced

At Pool Hayes Academy, we are proud that during lockdown we were able to continue to recognise and reward our students and their continued commitment to learning! Using our reward system Class charts, we held weekly subject competitions, published our 'learners of the week' – students who were awarded the most class charts positive points and sent home weekly certificates to students who went above and beyond. **Well done to all winners!**



GCSE RESULTS 2020

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2020 YEAR 11 AND YEAR 13 STUDENTS ON YOUR PHANTASTIC RESULTS!

Students and staff at Pool Hayes Academy are celebrating after a fantastic set of GCSE results.

Principal, Phillipa Harris, said "Our students have performed superbly this year and it is especially pleasing to see students achieve Grade 9s. The guidance and support from our excellent Pool Hayes staff have been key to this success"

Individual students worthy of praise due to their fantastic GCSE results are Ryan, who achieved an amazing set of results, including three Grade 8s in Mathematics, Science and History. Ryan is looking forward to starting Sixth Form at Pool Hayes Academy in September. Saira achieved three grade 9s in Science, Drama and History and five grade 8s amongst her fantastic set of results. Davina also made transformational progress by securing Grade 8s in English Language, English Literature, Mathematics and Religious Studies in addition to Grade 7s in her remaining subjects.

Vince Green, Regional Education Director for the Academy Transformation Trust said: "We are delighted that our students have achieved the results they deserve at Pool Hayes Academy. These reflect the hard work and commitment of students and staff at the academy. We look forward to continuing to work with so many of them in our Sixth Form."



Louie



Davina



Isaac

Our students have performed superbly this year and it is especially pleasing to see students achieve Grade 9s. The guidance and support from our excellent Pool Hayes staff have been key to this success"

Mrs Harris



Bradley

A LEVEL RESULTS 2020

Students and staff at Pool Hayes Academy celebrated after a pleasing set of A-level results. The results have secured students chosen next steps, with the majority of students securing a place at their first choice of university.

Principal, Phillipa Harris, said "Many of our sixth formers have performed superbly this year and it is especially pleasing to see students achieve top A-level grades. The guidance from our excellent Pool Hayes staff and small group sizes have been key to this success"

Individual students worthy of praise due to their fantastic A level results are, Preeti who achieved four As in the A levels Psychology, RE, Sociology and Business Studies and Jennifer who achieved an A*, Distinction * and two As in English, Performing Arts, History and Psychology. It was also pleasing to see Louis, who secured high grades in A level English, RE and Sociology. Louis has secured his first choice university place to Birmingham University to study English and Film.

Other students achieving high grades in order to secure their top choice in university places are Trinity with two Distinction *s and a Distinction in Performing Arts and Dance Diploma, Lily who secured grades A, B and B in A level History, English and Mathematics and Kuran with a Distinction 8, B and B in Art, English and Religious Education.

Vince Green, Regional Education Director for the Academy Transformation Trust said: "We are pleased with our students' results at Pool Hayes Academy in both A-level and vocational subjects. These reflect the hard work and commitment of students and staff at the academy. We wish all of our young people well in the next stage of their education or employment."



Jennifer achieved an A*, A and A!
Well done!

Congratulations to Trinity who achieved a Distinction and a merit. Trinity is now studying Sport Therapy at Birmingham City University.

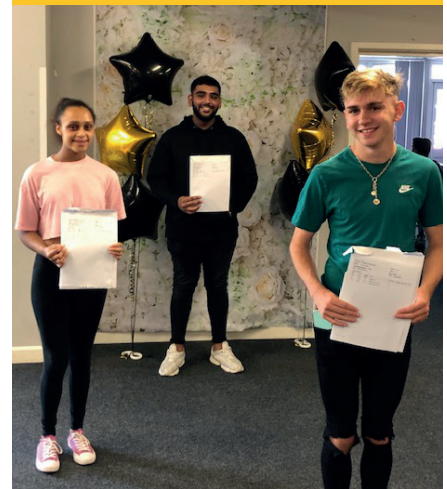


Kuran



"We are pleased with our students' results at Pool Hayes Academy in both A-level and vocational subjects. These reflect the hard work and commitment of students and staff at the academy. We wish all of our young people well in the next stage of their education or employment."

Vince Green, Regional Education Director for the Academy Transformation Trust



Trinity, Kuran and Louis.

YEAR 7

Sponsored reading

Pool Hayes Academy students bookmarked every Thursday evening for charity as they read and raised money on World Book Night.

Every Thursday, Year 7 students read for an hour prior to Clap for Carers to help raise money for Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust's charity, Well Wishers. Well Wishers raises money for things over and above what the NHS is able to provide. It set up a COVID-19 support fund to mark the end of the pandemic and will be working with staff in the future.

Pool Hayes Librarian, Anne Plimmer, came up with this idea for the children to not only read for enjoyment and their own wellbeing but to fundraise while doing so. She said: "Our students wanted to do something to help staff during this time and I thought with World Book Night approaching what better way for our students to show support for their local hospital by reading for the charity!"

Year 7 student Kacey said: "I love my school especially the library! As an avid reader I am definitely ready to read for good on World Book Night and help the charity." Anne also mentioned this idea to local food distributor A. F. Blakemore & Son Ltd which kindly agreed to sponsor the Year 7 pupils for a generous donation of £200. Former student, CEO of Paycare, Wolverhampton, also donated £800 to this worthy cause.



"Our students wanted to do something to help staff during this time and I thought with World Book Night approaching what better way for our students to show support for their local hospital by reading for the charity!"

Anne Plimmer, Pool Hayes Librarian



NHS RAINBOWS

Over lockdown, Year 7 student - Amelie, enjoyed creating rainbows as a sign of our gratitude for all the NHS are doing. The rainbows were displayed in pride of place at the academy gates for all of our local community to enjoy.

NATIONAL SCIENCE WEEK**National Space Centre visit**

In the Spring term of 2020, over 70 Year 7 students travelled to the National Space Centre for an astronaut trail and astronaut planetarium show.

Students had to find the answers to many questions about space, students were able to climb to the top of rockets and feel the gravity on different planets. The students were a credit to the school. A great way to start National Science Week 2020.

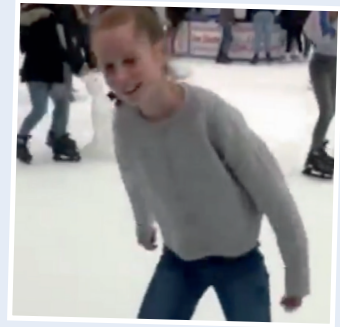


NATIONAL SCIENCE WEEK

As part of National Science Week all Year 7-10 students took part in science challenges to show that science doesn't just come from a textbook. Year 7 made spaghetti towers, Year 8 tested how durable nappies are, Year 9 made hovercrafts and year 10 designed and made balloon cars. All had great fun and gained independent thinking skills which they can use in many more science challenges to come.

**ICE SKATING SUPERSTAR!**

Well done to Kim in Year 9 who found out she is currently ranked 10th nationally for her ice skating level, Basic Novice Ladies. She made PHAntastic progress as she moved up 15 places from last year. Well done Kim! We are all so proud of you! #talent #progress

**LOCKDOWN LEGO!**

During lockdown, one of our wonderful students, Thomas, created this masterpiece out of Lego! This just shows what can be achieved with patience, skill and creativity. Well done Thomas!

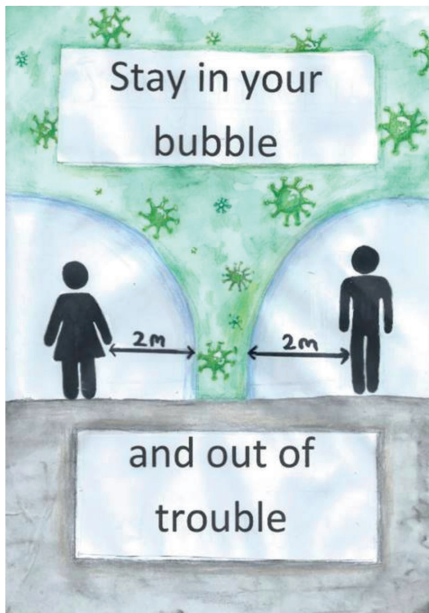
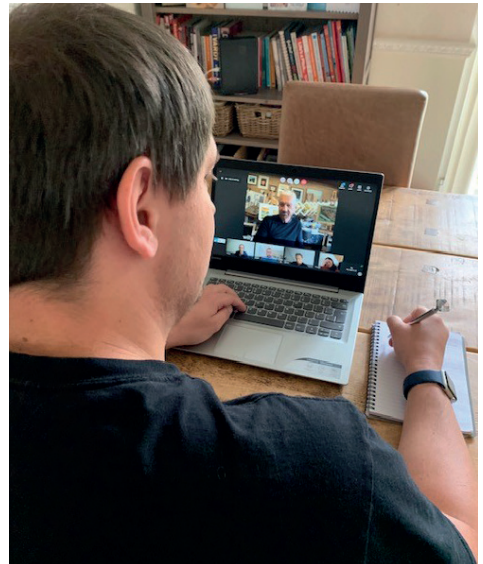
YEAR 9

BLOOD Brothers



Over lockdown, previous Year 9 students from Pool Hayes who chose to take Drama as a GCSE this year took part in an exciting home learning project. As part of their GCSE they will be learning about the play Blood Brothers by Willy Russell, and so they were set the task of filming themselves performing a line from the play. These videos were edited together to create a Blood Brothers trailer that the class will analyse and evaluate now we are back in school.

Pool Hayes Academy Drama Teacher, Mr Monksfield managed to secure 1 of only 50 tickets to a Live Webinar with @WillyRussellUK on Monday 11th May! He asked the famous writer students' questions about the GCSE Drama text.



Winner!

We were thrilled that a Pool Hayes Academy student, Emma in Year 9, was the winner of our ATT Social Distance Social Distancing poster competition. We were also really proud when Emma chose to donate her prize to a charity, Acorns Hospice in Walsall. What an amazing student!

NATIONAL CAREERS WEEK

People like me



To help celebrate Careers Week, Monday 2nd March saw Amy, one of the Graduate Ambassadors from Newcastle University come into PHA to deliver a session for our Year 9 and Year 10 girls.

The WISE (Women Into Science and Engineering) workshop is aimed at helping girls to identify their personal strengths and the wide variety of STEM career opportunities that are available to them. As an introduction, students looked at significant scientific events involving women over the past two hundred years. These ranged from Marie Curie, a physicist and chemist who won two Nobel prizes to the first all-female space walk in 2019.

Students looked at how these pioneering women have helped to open up opportunities for women and to show that they can survive in what has traditionally been a man's world. To help them understand the differences in the human brain they had a go at a variety of short tests involving memory recall, rotation of shapes and perception.

Although it has been proven that men perform better at shape rotation, and women are better at recall and perception. The girls also had a go at identifying their key strengths and characteristics to help them explore employment opportunities to suit their personalities.

YEAR 10 / 11

Celebrating INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Monday 9th March saw 45 Year 10 girls visit Sandwell College and take part in activities to help celebrate International Women's Day.

The day started with presentations of truly inspirational life stories from some of the lecturers from the college. These ranged from Anne, an engineering lecturer who spent her childhood helping her father to build and race hovercraft and then did an automotive engineering course at university, to Michelle, one of the college sports lecturers, who spoke about the challenges she faced growing up and how she started to train in athletics and went on to become an international athlete. Both women were keen to stress to the girls that they needed to first believe that things can happen and then be motivated enough to make them happen.

After the presentation students went off in their groups to participate in workshops in electronics, engineering and mechanics. The favourite workshop was the one where they were able to wire a circuit board to power a bulb and a doorbell with various sounds. A good time was had by all the students and our thanks go to Sandwell College for hosting the event.



We had an amazing time learning more about careers and opportunities available to us"

MATHS WATCH



During June & July, Year 10 were in school enjoying maths lessons as part of their face-to-face provision.

They learned about graphs, inequalities, the equation of a line and factorising quadratics to support the work that they had been completing at home from their workbooks and on Mathswatch. They even sat their end of Year 10 exams on Mathswatch!

Well done!

Well done to Jack in Year 11 who passed his Grade 3 Bass Guitar Exam! We are really proud of you! A massive achievement! #talent #music



YEAR 10 / 12 RETURN

Welcome Back!

We really enjoyed physically seeing our Year 10 and 12 students again for face to face learning after lockdown was eased last term.

It was a real pleasure seeing the progress that they made at home during remote learning. Thank you to our PHAntastic staff for making this happen!

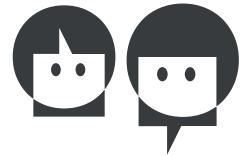


VOTES FOR SCHOOLS

Inspiring Pupil Voice

As part of the Pool Hayes Learning curriculum, students from Years 10 and 7 respectively took part in an exciting home learning project in which they learned about current affairs and democracy. Each week they learned about a new topic in the news, debated the different opinions and got the opportunity to vote for what they believe in. It was a great way of giving our students a voice at a time when they may feel unheard. We really enjoyed hearing what they had to say!

Student Support!



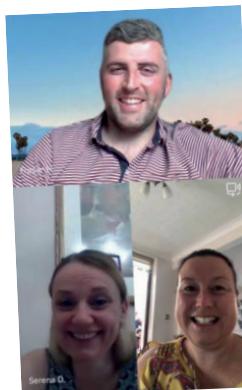
Even though we were physically apart from the majority of our students during lockdown, we continued to ensure they knew we were thinking of them and supporting their needs.

As well as form tutors and the wider pastoral teams contacting our students daily, we also signposted professional expertise, so they could continue to have access to information and guidance they needed. This ranged from links to emotional mental health services such as Kooth, to careers guidance provided by professionals from Connexions. Some of our Year 11 and Post 16 students were also selected to take part in a virtual work experience, organised by Young Professionals. This was a PHAntastic opportunity and achievement as there were only 500 places available nationally! Well done to everyone involved!

YEAR 6 TRANSITION

Mrs Macey, Mr Harris and Mrs Talbot had virtual meetings with all of our primary schools during lockdown to ensure that the transition for Year 6 students is as smooth as ever!

We were determined to ensure that our new Year 7 students along with their parents and carers felt reassured about the move to secondary school. Thank you to all staff involved in making this happen!



ART SHOWCASE

LOCK DOWN *Art*



The Art Department at Pool Hayes Academy are so proud of their Year 12 pupils who worked tirelessly on their artwork throughout lockdown.

They loved their students ingenuity, especially when using household materials like coffee and photography where they could, to improve and develop their artwork. They were in awe of the talented pieces that were submitted for their art assessments for both written and practical parts and wanted to say well done and thank you to all of their students for their dedication to their subjects during this difficult time.

The Art Department were also so proud of all their Year 10 pupils who submitted work to them during lockdown. Thank you to the students for their continued dedication to Art during this difficult time.



WHOLE SCHOOL FEATURE

Our PHAntastic students helping the community...

THANK YOU
To all our students and staff who have gone out of their way to help others during this tough time.

Our amazing students and staff have been outstanding citizens during lockdown, doing all they can for the community...



Ronnie, one of our Year 13 Post 16 students personally delivered food to the elderly and most vulnerable families across Walsall.

Pool Hayes delivers!

In partnership with Chartwells, during lockdown we were able to donate food hampers to vulnerable families across Walsall and Wolverhampton. We were also pleased to be able to donate food to our academy charity, St Giles Hospice.



Kelsey in Year 9 baked cupcakes and delivered them to her local ambulance station for the paramedics to enjoy.



Volunteering

During lockdown, Pool Hayes Academy staff member, Mrs Bassi, who is also our staff wellbeing champion, volunteered her own time to make food for the most vulnerable families in our community! Such a selfless act of kindness. Another star in our academy!

During lockdown, Pool Hayes Academy supported Walsall Manor, our local hospital by donating much needed PPE equipment to NHS staff. Also, on Thursday 14th April, 5 boxes of PPE equipment, donated from our Science Department, were collected on behalf of New Cross Hospital, Wolverhampton. We were thrilled to be able to support these PHAntastic NHS heroes who are working on the frontline every day, working to save lives.



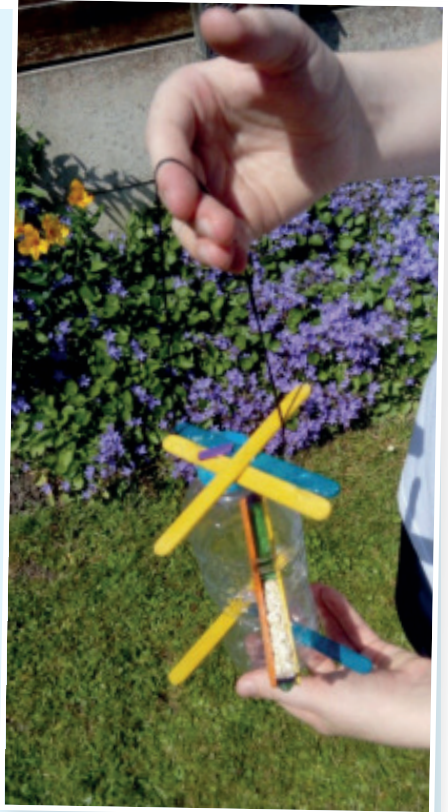
WHOLE SCHOOL

PLASTIC POLLUTION

Plastic Pollution has become a huge global issue recently. An estimated 73% of beach litter worldwide is plastic, mainly single use plastic which is used once then discarded.

In Geography students learn about the problems caused by plastic pollution and started to think about their own solutions. This year we have started to work with the organisation WASUP (World Against Single Use Plastic), an organisation led by a local doctor which aims to raise global awareness of plastic pollution. We are excited to hear more about plans to participate in the 2022 litter challenge in the run up to the Commonwealth Games.

Students who attend eco club, an extra-curricular opportunity open to all key stage three students, have used plastic bottles that they collected around the academy to create thought provoking displays, including a plastic bottle Christmas tree. We have also been extremely excited to see some of the students who will be joining us next year taking on our recycling challenge and creating fantastic items such as bird feeders from unwanted plastic.



ALUMNI

POOL HAYES LEGENDS!



We have recently launched our alumni and have been impressed with the number of members we have already!

One member is Stuart Dangerfield, who has represented Great Britain in the Olympics for cycling. Two more of our alumni members, Daniel and Sophie are true heroes as they are both working as paramedics, saving lives across the West Midlands. Alex Bird, who is now a professional artist is an Instagram celebrity! Alex is currently publishing a portrait collection, 'NHS heroes', where he captures the inner beauty of our key workers who are currently working in extreme conditions.

We discovered one of our most recent members whilst we were being interviewed, about our current sponsored reading challenge, by a local radio station. We quickly discovered the radio presenter was a former student who accepted the invitation to be part of our alumni! We are looking forward to developing our alumni further and being able to meet up in person very soon!

THE Arts

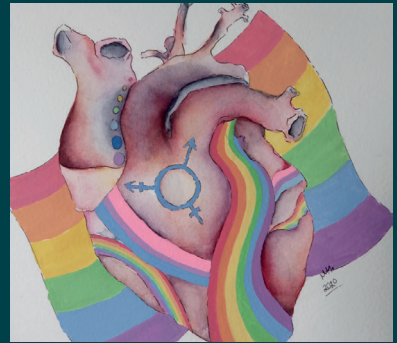
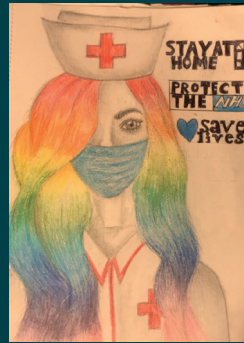
ART

Rainbows often symbolise hope



It is for this reason that our Art team decided to launch a competition for our students during lockdown, where they had to create a piece of Art incorporating rainbows.

We were astounded at the quality of work which came flooding into us! One of our PHAntastic students even produced a portrait of her Aunt and Uncle who are both working on the NHS frontline. The Art rainbow competition certainly lifted our spirits and injecting a feeling of hope for the future. Well done to all students who participated!



LITERACY

Wolverhampton Children's Book Awards ceremony

Last term, our students met four fantastic authors of the shortlisted titles they had read, and voted for, in advance of this year's Wolverhampton Children's Book Awards ceremony.

Before the announcement of the winner, the students enjoyed a range of brilliant books and reading related activities, delivered to them by the inspirational authors.

Congratulations to the ultimate overall winner Little Badman and the Invasion of the Killer Aunties, by Humza Arshad, and many thanks to Zoe Rowley, Head Librarian at Wolverhampton Grammar School, for inviting Pool Hayes Academy to this amazing book award event. Our students pictured with authors Jenny McLachlan, Anna Fargher, Julia Green, Steve Cole, and the Deputy Mayor of Wolverhampton, Councillor Greg Brackenridge, at this year's Wolverhampton Children's Book Awards ceremony.



18 BY 18 READING CHALLENGE

Pool Hayes Academy made sure their whole community were able to continue with their '18 by 18' Reading Challenge' during lockdown by uploading the books for free digitally onto the academy website. This meant that all students, staff, parents and carers were able to access the texts whilst they were in lockdown! Nothing will stop us reading!

POETRY

We launched a poetry competition to challenge our students to use their experiences to write a poem to capture how lockdown feels to us all.

The PHAntastic winners of our Lock down poetry competition were Bobby and Levi, both from Year 7!

The pandemic was approaching but no one saw it coming,
 Although it was scary, it was the start of something stunning.
 The Earth started healing and it took a pandemic to do so,
 Clean canals of Venice were like looking through a window.
 Around the world wildlife came out to play,
 While humans were made to stay locked away.

Families were made to stay together and not socialize,
 Although it was difficult, everyone knew it was wise.
 Adults took up baking, gardening and decorating,
 And some even began funny Tik Tok dancing.
 Children stayed home playing games and having fun,
 But were able to go out for their daily run.

Communities came together for the special clap at eight,
 Heroes like Colonel Tom inspired millions to donate.
 Neighbours ran errands delivering food and supplies,
 For those who were vulnerable leaving the house was not advised.

From doctors to teachers, bus drivers to researchers,
 To keep the country going, people were known as key workers.

Shops closed their doors and park gates were locked,
 Soaps stopped filming; concerts were stopped.
 Lessons were now taught by teachers online,
 Celebrities on Insta finding ways to pass the time.
 But everyone became equal because we are all in this together,
 2020 will go down in history and will be remembered forever.

I'm fit and I'm healthy I'll think I'll be fine,
 I'm young and carefree, the problems not mine!
 I'm happy, I'm young and I'm feeling good
 Not following the rules don't see why I should?

I'm going to the park, I'm sure it's ok.
 I'm not staying in, it's a beautiful day!
 I wanna play football, I wanna go out.
 I'm not isolating, I'll be fine, no doubt!

But as I sit back, the bigger picture I see.
 That this universe does not revolve around me.
 It's time to consider life beyond my immediate place
 To be one, regardless of generation or race.

Let's all play a part, if only for a short while.
 Our world will recover and people will smile.
 Lives will be saved, grief will be spared.
 The world will unite, love will be shared.

SPORTS

News

NATIONAL SCHOOL SPORTS WEEK

During National School Sports Week, pupils were entered into the Black Country Games virtual sports competition.

They were then set a number of fitness and golf challenges to be completed individually or against their family and friends. Pool Hayes Academy represented Walsall Borough where 1300 challenges were completed. Staff were quick to step up to the challenge too! Well done to everyone who took part!



**YOUTH
SPORT
TRUST**

**NATIONAL SCHOOL
SPORT WEEK 2020**

AT HOME

Site Team *Stars*

A massive thank you must go to our very own Mrs Fellows, Mr Gill and Mr Hathaway, who were in school constantly throughout lockdown to ensure our site remained safe and clean. They really are the stars of our academy! Thank you also to Gerard, from the Estates team, who worked tirelessly to ensure the safety of our site and that we were all well prepared for when we returned to school in September!





Pool Hayes Academy



The Key To Success

Sixth Form Open Evening

Thursday 26th November 2020 5.30pm - 7.30pm

Email office@poolhayes.atrust.org.uk for more information



Pool Hayes Academy, Castle Drive, Willenhall, West Midlands WV12 4QZ
Tel: 01902 368147 | office@poolhayes.atrust.org.uk
www.poolhayes.atrust.org.uk



#PHAntastic @PoolHayesAcad