

Thursday 11th February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

We hope that you are all safe and well during this time. As we reach the end of this half term, we wanted to thank you for your continued support. We understand that this half term has been very different and, not without its challenges, but we have worked together to overcome barriers to ensure our students, your children, still receive the education they are entitled to and deserve.

Stakeholder surveys – ‘You Said, We Did’

Thank you to all parents and carers who completed the parent and carer survey. We also now have feedback from both students and staff. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive: you appreciate the welfare calls made by staff, the support that is always available to you and the fact that we are keeping a tight structure by continuing with our timetable, albeit remotely. This feedback was pleasing to hear as we are trying to do our best, as an academy in a difficult situation. However, you asked us to consider decreasing screen time in order to support mental health, to ensure students have an opportunity to ask their teacher questions at the end of each lesson and to consider homework, during this period of national lockdown. It is, indeed, all about balance. Therefore, after listening to the views of all of our stakeholders, the following changes will be made, with effect from, Monday 22nd February 2021.

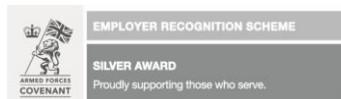
1. Each teaching session will finish 10 minutes earlier. This will give students the opportunity to ask their teacher any individual questions either via the chat function or via email, if preferred. This 10-minute gap will also provide students with a short break away from the screen before the next lesson begins in order to get up and move around. This will also mean that students in Years 7, 8 and 9 will have a short break in between period 4 and 5. We hope that this short afternoon break will be welcomed. Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 already have a break in between Periods 4 and 5, due to their later lunch.
2. On Wednesdays, live lessons will end at 12.05pm. This will enable students to have a complete ‘screen free’ afternoon. We will be offering a choice of enrichment style ‘screen free’ activities for students for those who would like to participate. This means there will always be activities to hand. Alternatively, it is a time for families to partake in family activities such as going for a walk, before it gets too dark, to support the mental health of the whole family.

3. Additional 'homework' will not be set during this lockdown period to enable students the time to complete any unfinished work from lessons.
4. There will be an opportunity for students to meet virtually with their form tutor, every Friday during their normal registration time. We hope students will find this addition of a 'support session' useful.
5. Staff will receive additional training on pedagogy and how we can incorporate 'screen free' learning for students in their lessons, whilst still being 'present' in the lesson to support. Staff will also be more mindful of giving appropriate time for students to complete activities during the lesson, in order to support pace.
6. We had added 'How to' videos under the 'Remote Learning' section of our website in order to support students, parents and carers with completing activities such as submitting assignments via Teams. The link can be found here: [Remote Learning - Pool Hayes Academy \(attrust.org.uk\)](https://attrust.org.uk/remote-learning-pool-hayes-academy)
7. All students have access to knowledge organisers, which are personalised to their specific Year Group and subject. We have also added these organisers onto our website in the Students, Learning Resources section. The link can be found here: [Knowledge Organisers - Pool Hayes Academy \(attrust.org.uk\)](https://attrust.org.uk/knowledge-organisers-pool-hayes-academy)
8. We will be using Teams Break Out rooms more, by using our Teaching Assistants, to support as appropriate.
9. We will remind staff to use class charts as a way to praise students but also to make parents and carers aware of their child's engagement. We will also continue to follow our rewards initiatives such as 'Distance Learners of the Week' and 'Half Term Heroes'. We hope to also introduce more rewards as part of our enrichment offer. Please remember that you can also view your child's timetable on Class Charts.

As an overview, the academy day will look like this: (breaks are highlighted in yellow)

KS3 REMOTE LEARNING TIMETABLE

8.45am – 10.25am	Lesson 1 & 2
10.25am – 10.55am	BREAK
10.55am – 11.15am	SUPPORT SESSION - CONTACT FORM TUTOR FOR ASSISTANCE, IF NEEDED (Friday)
11.15am – 12.10pm	Lesson 3
12.10pm – 12.45pm	LUNCH



12.45pm – 13.30pm	Lesson 4
13.30pm – 13.40pm	10-minute break
13.40pm – 3.15pm	Lesson 5 & 6 (*13.40pm – 14.35pm Mondays and Fridays)

KS4 & KS5 REMOTE LEARNING TIMETABLE

8.45am – 10.25am	Lesson 1 & 2
10.25am – 10.55am	BREAK
10.55am – 11.15am	SUPPORT SURGERY - CONTACT FORM TUTOR FOR ASSISTANCE, IF NEEDED
11.15am – 12.55pm	Lesson 3 & 4
12.55pm – 13.40pm	LUNCH
13.40pm – 15.15pm	Lesson 5 & 6 (*13.40pm – 14.35pm Mondays and Fridays)

***Well Being Wednesday afternoon: dedicated to off screen well being**

Therefore, each Wednesday's remote learning would end at 12.05pm to allow for well-being time to support mental health. We will also offer enrichment activities.

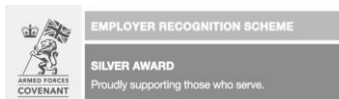
For more information following actions as a result of our parents and carers survey, please see our 'You Said, We Did' document which is available in the Parents and Carers section of our website.

Please note that this will remain in place whilst we are in a national lockdown and the significant majority of students are learning from home. Once we return to the academy physically, our 'normal' timetable will resume. As a nation, we hope to hear more about our government's plans to lift lockdown on Monday 22nd February 2021.

Information for FSM families:

Walsall LA have asked that we share the below information with you:

'Walsall as a local authority is taking the same approach as our Christmas break with eligible families receiving a payment direct for food and heating over half term. Payments will be made directly into family bank accounts based on entitlement to Council Tax reduction to identify low income households. The payment will also be made to pupils who live outside of Walsall but attend a Walsall school.



Where Walsall LA have bank account details families will be paid direct. Residents who we did not already have bank account details for were written to requesting that they register and upload their bank details onto a secure portal <https://www.grantapproval.co.uk/> so that payments can be made. Where this could not be met by resident's voucher/s was sent via mail. Please contact the Council's Housing and Welfare Service who can be contacted on 01922 652550 or Housingandwelfaresupport@walsall.gov.uk if you need further information.

When we return following the half term break, our voucher scheme will resume. FSM parents and carers are expected to receive their voucher on Tuesday 23rd February 2021.

Reporting of Covid-19 cases

Just a reminder that if you or your child are self-isolating or have received a positive Covid-19 result, please contact Helen Harris (Attendance Officer) via email: h.harris@poolhayes.attrust.org.uk as soon as possible.

Friday 12th February 2021

As per our calendar and the letter sent to you previously on Tuesday 2nd February, please remember our academy is closed on Friday 12th February for staff training, where we will be addressing some of improvements that we can make. Therefore, no live lessons will be taking place.

Thank you again for your continued support. As always, we are here if you need anything at all. We are always contactable on office@poolhayes.attrust.org.uk. Our academy reception will be staffed again from Monday 22nd February during academy hours. If you prefer to talk to us, contact us on 01902 368147.

Take care

P. J. Harris

Mrs Harris
Principal

