



Friday 25th June 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this update finds you well and in good health. It's been a busy fortnight at Pool Hayes Academy and as usual students have embraced the challenges of both the school curriculum and enrichment opportunities. Students and staff have made me feel really at home and it has been lovely talking to students about the England football team's formation, their career aspirations and learning about their thoughts about how the school can improve. Uniform again has been excellent and students continue to impress with their standards of dress and professionalism around the academy. I am extremely grateful for your support with this and they are a credit to not only Pool Hayes Academy, but also yourselves.

Navy Visit

The past two weeks have been illuminated by two visits from the Royal Navy. As you may have seen on twitter, naval staff have been working with our students on team building and resilience training. My highlight of the week was watching Year 9 students walking using ropes and planks and moving a golf ball across an obstacle course using drainpipes! I promise you it was a sight to behold.

Covid Cases

As you may be aware we have had positive cases in the academy this week. Again I would like to thank parents and carers for their understanding and support in self-isolation for those students. As we move through the pandemic, this appears to be a trend not only across Walsall, but the country as a whole. I am pleased that our 'bubble' system has meant that we have contained any outbreak to individual groups and not the wider year group. For now, this is working but we must remain vigilant to ensure students and families remain as safe as possible.

New Reception

Just a reminder that our reception has moved to the front of the academy site (immediately on your left as you drive into the academy). It is a welcoming and professional space which is an impressive feature of Pool Hayes Academy.

Year 12 Induction

Our new Year 12 arrived this week to experience a taste of sixth form life. There were a myriad of activities and taster lessons for students. Judging from the smiles on their faces as students as they left each day; it was a huge success. The 'Scavenger Hunt' provided a unique insight into how competitive our new Year 12 are and they are extremely competitive! Many thanks to our new Year 12 and the members of the Sixth Form team for providing such a fantastic experience.



Y11 and Y13 Appeals

In the last fortnight we have submitted all our grades for Year 11 and Year 13 students. This has been a huge undertaking from all teaching and support staff and I am proud of how dedicated and professional the process has been handled. Before the summer we will be outlining our appeals process and the arrangements for results days on the 10th August (Year 13) and 12th August (Year 12).

Changes to September Start

As you are aware, I have written to you all outlining a minor change to the arrangements for students returning in September. In summary, students who will be in years 7, 11, 12 and 13 will now return on Monday 6th September. Students who will be in years 8, 9, 10 will return on Tuesday 7th September. Both days students need to be on site by 8:40am. Thank you in advance for your support on this.

Overall, I have loved my first three weeks at Pool Hayes Academy. I can see plenty of strengths within the academy that can be further developed and both staff and students are determined to make Pool Hayes Academy an excellent school. Between now and the end of the year, we will be rolling out lesson 6 and 7 with Year 10; tightening up on standards; displaying our talented art work across the academy; improving signage and ensuring we reward students for high levels of attendance.

A final reminder from me to please ensure you support your child to take a lateral flow test on Sunday and Wednesday evenings.

Have a lovely weekend



Mr T. McDowall
Principal

