

Monday 19th July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope that you are all safe and well at this time. I would like to thank you all for your support, patience and understanding over the course of this academic year. Pool Hayes Academy, like many schools, has been through another year of turbulence due to the Covid-19 pandemic and has faced many challenges, however I am proud to say that our academy has placed students' safety at the heart of all decisions made and will continue to do so.

In September, our Academy will look different. There are a number of measures and restrictions that are no longer needed and the layout and look of our academy will reflect this. I am aware that this could create further uncertainty but I can assure you that our staff and community will support students in making the transition back to a 'normal' school environment.

As you will probably be aware from the media, all schools and academies in England will be required to test students before they return to school in September. In order to manage this testing workload, schools will be staggering the return of students in September to ensure testing can be conducted both safely and securely. At Pool Hayes Academy we will be staggering students' return over the first week back to ensure our community is safe and families are protected. Your child will be tested for Covid-19 the day before they begin their formal lessons. The next page outlines the timetable for students' return in September.

It is very important that all children return to our academy. Our Attendance team will be monitoring this very carefully and the usual rules on attendance will apply from September 2021. If you are anxious or concerned about your child returning, please contact our academy so one of our team can discuss your concerns with you and offer support.

Despite restrictions being lifted, we are all aware that Covid-19 is not over. Any student displaying Covid-19 symptoms during the academy day will be immediately isolated from their peers; parents or carers will be informed and you will be asked to collect your child immediately. Government guidance now requires students displaying Covid-19 symptoms to have received a negative PCR test result before they can return to our academy.

From September, students who are close contacts of positive cases will no longer be required to self-isolate, however we ask that you remain vigilant. This is a significant change to the current guidance, but does mean that more students will remain in school and will not need to self-isolate. Government guidance still requires students to home test (Sunday and Wednesday evenings) and with close contacts no longer required to self-isolate, it is more important than ever that these tests are completed to ensure the safety of our students, staff and families. If your child receives a positive LFT home test, you would then need to book them in for a PCR test before determining if they can return to school.

When does my child return to the academy?

Please see the table below to determine when your child will start the 2021-22 academic year. Please remember your child will be in a new year group from September.

Day	Students at Home	Students in for LFT Testing	Students in School
Monday 6th September 2021	Years 7, 8, 9 and 10	Years 11, 12 and 13 (then return home) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 8:45am - 9:40am - Year 11 Surnames A-M• 9:40am – 10:35am - Year 11 Surnames N-Z• 12:10pm – 1:05pm - Year 12• 1:30pm – 2:35pm - Year 13	None
Tuesday 7th September 2021	Years 8 and 9	Years 10 and 7 (then return home) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 8:45am - 9:40am - Year 7 Surnames A-M• 9:40am – 10:35am - Year 7 Surnames N-Z• 12:10pm – 1:05pm - Year 10 Surnames A-M• 1:30pm – 2:35pm - Year 10 Surnames N-Z	Years 11, 12 and 13 Start at 8:40am
Wednesday 8th September 2021	Year 9	Year 8 (then return home) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 8:45am - 9:40am Year 8 Surnames A-M• 9:40am – 10:35am - Year 8 Surnames N-Z	Years 7, 10, 11, 12 and 13 Start at 8:40am
Thursday 9th September 2021	None	Year 9 (then return home) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 8:45am - 9:40am - Year 9 Surnames A-M• 9:40am – 10:35am - Year 9 Surnames N-Z	Years 7, 8, 10, 11, 12 and 13 Start at 8:40am
Friday 10th September 2021	All students in school Start at 8:40am		

Please note - Once your child has completed their test they must return home. Their school year will then start from the following day.

Covid-19 Testing

As stated previously, we are required to test students before they return in September. Testing is not compulsory but is strongly encouraged.

If you are happy for your child to be tested (or for students over the age of 16, if you are happy to be tested), please fill in the consent form via the link below by Thursday 2nd September 2021. **If you have already completed a consent form during this academic year, then you do not need to complete this again.**

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=8vifwdall0ecKumA7HSBFLjQKK7FFrJOvINJ1Z9jAvdUQVRPTTdawERVSVYwN1IZTDhCVFpRRRIVGSC4u>

If you are unable to complete the form in the link above and would like to give consent, or you would like to withdraw consent previously given, please contact us by emailing office@poolhayes.attrust.org.uk

End of the Academy Day

There will be no staggered finish times for different year groups from September. Students will leave Pool Hayes Academy at the standard times. These times are as follows:

- Monday and Friday – 2:35pm
- Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday – 3:30pm

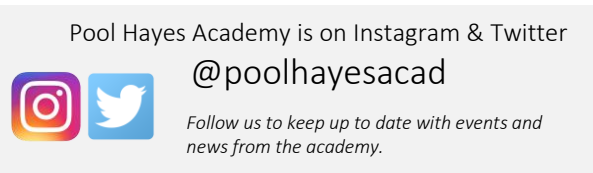
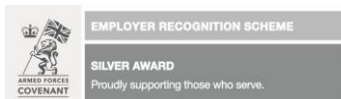
Lunch and Break Times

Lunchtimes and break times will be staggered to separate Key Stage 3 (Years 7, 8 and 9) from Years 10, 11, 12, & 13.

I am excited to share that from September our catering facilities at break time will be returning. Students are welcome to bring in a snack for break time or can purchase a snack from our break time menu using funds on their school money account.

At lunch time, students are welcome to bring in packed lunches if they wish, however we will continue to have multiple food outlets available for them to purchase lunch from using funds on their school money account. There will be no seating available inside during lunch and break times so please ensure your child wears an appropriate coat, especially as we move into winter.

Children will continue to be expected to wash or sanitise their hands upon entry to the academy and regularly throughout the academy day. This is good practice to avoid all types of infections not just Covid-19. Students are permitted to bring their own hand sanitiser and use it appropriately.

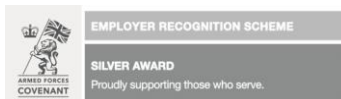


Changes to Organisation of the Academy Day

- We are able to move back to physical assemblies in the hall.
- There will no longer be rules around social distancing.
- Lessons will move back to single periods lasting 55 minutes. Although your child may still receive a double lesson.
- We will be able to offer extra-curricular activities for students. More information on these activities will be shared in September.
- We will continue to minimise external visitors to the academy site. Where this is essential, we will continue to ensure that every visitor signs into the academy so we have an effective record of who has been on site and when. We will also ensure that they do not come into contact with any students unless for a planned activity.
- Students or staff will not need to wear face masks during their time in the academy.

Personal Organisation

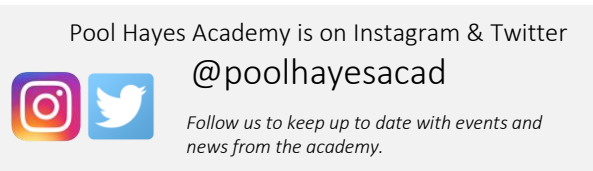
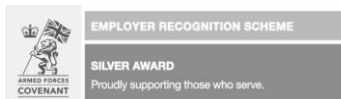
- The academy Uniform Policy has not changed. Students will be expected to wear full academy uniform. Details of academy uniform are detailed on our website and will be outlined in a further letter.
- Our mobile phone policy is also unchanged. Mobile phones are not allowed to be seen or heard on our academy site and students will have them confiscated if they are. If your child's phone is confiscated, you will be asked to collect your child's phone at the end of the academy day. Students are not permitted to collect their own phones unless it is a Friday. This is non-negotiable.
- We will be teaching a broad and balanced curriculum while also taking into consideration the significant gaps in students' knowledge following the turbulence of the last 18 months. Please be reassured we will be working to ensure these gaps are filled. The continued development of 'knowledge organisers' for each scheme of learning is just one way in which this is supported. The additional lesson for Year 11 students also supports students who will be completing their final assessments in the Summer of 2022. Further information will be provided in September. We will also work to ensure Year 11 and 13 students in particular, have the opportunities to attend revision sessions during non-term times. Staff have adjusted their schemes of learning to ensure we identify and address any knowledge gaps both quickly and effectively.



- We have created an 'Outbreak Management Plan' which if needed, would reinstate measures that are currently in place such as mask wearing. Hopefully this will not be required but if it is, we will communicate any changes to you immediately.

Additional Information

- If you require more information, we would kindly ask that you email office@poolhayes.attrust.org.uk and include your child's name, form tutor and year group. Your email will then be forwarded on to the relevant member of staff.
- There will continue to be restricted access to the academy site for parents and carers. Enquiries should, as far as possible, be made by telephone or email to the academy office. Visitors should report to the new reception area which is immediately to the left as you enter our main academy gates.
- We are maintaining our increased cleaning coverage to ensure extra cleaning of handles, grab rails, touch points, toilets, classrooms and shared areas throughout the academy day.
- We have a duty of care to respond effectively and swiftly to any risk of infection. This will involve contacting our local Public Health England protection team in case of a confirmed case of Covid-19, who will guide us through the actions we need to take.
- Unless your child is in Year 7 and just joining Pool Hayes Academy, your child will have the same Year Leader next year as they did this year to ensure consistency. To summarise:
 - Year 7 - Mr Francis
 - Year 8 - Miss Sarginson
 - Year 9 - Miss Jones
 - Year 10 - Mr Penn
 - Year 11 - Ms Agha
 - Sixth Form - Mrs Mason-Wait



Although there is a great deal of information in this letter, I felt that I needed to share with you the detailed arrangements so that as parents and carers, you can feel reassured that we have taken every precautionary measure possible at this stage. We will be monitoring the situation throughout the summer holidays and should anything change, will be communicating updates to you as soon as possible.

Finally, I hope you have restful summer and that the sun shines throughout the holidays. If you need to contact the academy over the summer break, please email us on office@poolhayes.attrust.org.uk where a member of staff will get back to you as soon as possible.

Yours faithfully,



Mr T. McDowall
Principal

