



**Pool Hayes
Academy**

Newsletter

KEY DATES

CHRISTMAS

Academy Closes:

Friday 18th December 2020

(Staggered finish for students from 12pm)

Academy Opens Physically:

Monday 4th January 2021 -

For Year 11, Year 13, vulnerable students and students with Key Worker parents or carers.

Academy Opens Virtually:

Monday 4th January 2021 -

For all other students in Year 7, Year 8, Year 9, Year 10, Year 12.

Academy Opens Physically:

Monday 11th January 2021

For all students

HALF TERM

Academy Closes to students:

Thursday 11th February 2021

Training Day:

Friday 12th February 2021

Students Return:

Monday 22nd February 2021

Please note: We will inform parents and carers as soon as possible if we have to make any unavoidable changes.

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly we hope that you and your families are safe and well at this time.

As we reach the end of the final term of 2020, we would like to thank you for the support you continually give to our academy. It is always appreciated, but even more so this year.

At this time of year, we would normally have been busy rehearsing for and presenting, various Christmas performances. At present, we are unable to do this, but we have successfully ensured that our students and your children's education has continued. The one way systems, separate year group bubbles, hand sanitiser units, floor markings and the new reality of face coverings, almost now seem 'normal'.

In any term, there is always plenty to reflect upon from our day to day interactions, but this term will be etched in our memory for many months and years to come. As an ancient Chinese proverb states, 'in every crisis, there is opportunity', and we have certainly seen that in abundance this academic year. We have successfully developed our blended learning strategy using Office and Teams, so any isolating students have still been 'with us', even if it had to be virtually. We thank staff, students, parents and carers for their positivity and willingness to embrace change and develop new technologies, in order to remove barriers that have come our way. There are many things we will want to forget about 2020, however we must reflect on positive opportunities that have naturally occurred and move forward with them in 2021. 2020 has also taught us, more than ever, the importance of family, friends and community. To this end, we leave you with the warmest wishes, for a happy, healthy and relaxing Christmas and a wonderful New Year. We look forward to welcoming all of our students back to the academy in the new year.

Take Care

Mrs P Harris

Principal



Christmas Hamper Appeal

A big thank you to all parents, carers, students and staff who donated food and gifts for this years Christmas Hamper Appeal. There were enough contributions to make over 30 Hampers which were distributed to the local community this week.

Swan House Care Home, North Walsall Food Bank, Caldmore Housing Womens Refuge and The Good Sheppard Ministry, all benefitted from your wonderful generosity. Your donations will make a huge difference to some of the most vulnerable families in the area over the festive period.

We are very proud that our academy could play a small part in helping the community this Christmas. Thank you again to everyone who donated, you are PHAntastic!



Reverse Advent - Random Acts of Kindness

ADVENT DAY 1

#PHAntastic Random Act of Kindness

Our reverse advent calendar started on 1st December where our students and staff have been sharing random acts of kindness during the weeks before Christmas. Some of their thoughtful gestures included:

- Students carrying Spanish Dictionaries to class for their teacher
- Donating food and gifts to our local food banks and care homes
- Students sharing homemade gifts
- Buying flowers to put a smile on a teachers face
- Writing Christmas cards for those less fortunate

Thank you to everyone who has taken part and given something back this Christmas!



Christmas Jumper Day

Our students and staff wore a Christmas jumper on our last day of term, to raise proceeds for our academy charity, St Giles Hospice. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all donations made. We know St Giles will be very grateful.

For more information on our chosen charity, please go to: www.stgileshospice.com



Knowledge Organisers

Pool Hayes Academy have been creating Knowledge Organisers for all year groups across all subjects as a key teaching and learning strategy to support students with the cognitive load of their subjects. Every student in the school has been provided with a Knowledge Organiser booklet which forms part of their non-negotiables for every lesson.

Students have received several virtual assemblies explaining the use of Knowledge Organisers in their lessons and how to successfully use them independently and staff have been using a range of techniques in lessons following successfully training at the beginning of the year.

As this is a new strategy, it was essential to gain both staff and student feedback on their use and implementation and feedback surveys were sent out to both groups. The feedback on this was very positive and students were clearly able to see the value in enhancing their own learning. Therefore, the students Spring Term Knowledge Organiser will be provided in a plastic popper pocket with their names on to ensure that the booklets are more durable and are less easily misplaced. Students in KS4 and KS5 will have personalised folders to store their subject Knowledge Organisers in to support them with revision and formative assessments.

As parents and carers we encourage you to support your child by revising with their Knowledge Organiser at home, to support them with homework and with summative assessments. It is essential that they bring these to the academy everyday to support their learning in the classroom.

Mrs S. Lowe

Lead Practitioner History

Lead on Using Knowledge Organisers

Covid-19 Over Christmas

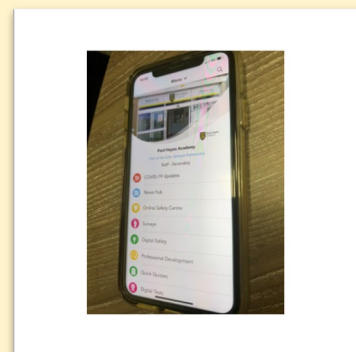
In the unfortunate event that your child tests positive for Covid-19 during the Christmas holidays, please ensure you take the following actions in line with government guidance:

- If your child tests positive for Covid-19 after developing symptoms within 48 hours of last being in the academy, you should notify us via email at office@poolhayes.attrust.org.uk – This email will be checked each day until Thursday 24th December 2020 and we will assist with necessary contact tracing, as per government guidelines.
- If your child tests positive for Covid-19 after developing symptoms more than 48 hours since last being in the academy, then there is no need to contact us. You should instead contact NHS Track and Trace who will advise you.
- If your child develops symptoms or tests positive at any point after **Thursday 24 December 2020**, please notify us at the start of term in January.

As always, if you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us on office@poolhayes.attrust.org.uk

Safer Schools App

A reminder to all our parents and carers that the 'Safer Schools App', is free for you to download. This app is a fantastic resource which provides useful tips, advice and information surrounding safeguarding. For help with this, please contact: office@poolhayes.attrust.org.uk



Shop Support

Our local Premier Shop on Castle Drive, has asked us to make all parents, carers and students aware that they will be painting their walls over the holiday with anti-social paint, to make the area more 'Covid safe' for students and shoppers.



Parking

Please can we ask parents and carers to be considerate when parking close to the academy. We must consider our students, your children's, safety as well as being considerate to our neighbours.

Well Done!

A massive well done to Miss Adams, who has successfully been accepted onto SSAT's Leadership Legacy Project for 2020-2021. We are so proud of you and your achievements! **#PHAntastic**

FSM Vouchers

Our Academy Transformation Trust will be sending out £30 of Asda vouchers to all students who qualify for FSM over the Christmas break. Please make sure you look out for these in your email inbox or post.

Blended Learning

This term, our staff have had to quickly adapt to a very new way of working using Microsoft Teams. Who would have thought this time last year, we would be teaching students in class whilst teaching students virtually at home? All this, whilst wearing a face mask too! We have made great steps in remote education this year. A positive to come out of 2020! Thank you to all our staff for working tirelessly to enable this to happen.

Pool Hayes Academy

Take a look at our latest prospectus and virtual academy tour on the Pool Hayes Academy website:

<https://www.poolhayes.attrust.org.uk>



Holiday Requests

Due to regulations issued by the Department for Education schools are **not permitted** to authorise holidays during term time.

Social Media

Pool Hayes Academy is on Instagram, Twitter and LinkedIn. Follow us to keep up to date with events and news from our academy.



@poolhayesacad



poolhayesacademy

Our Chosen Charity

St Giles

Hospice Care

