

Friday 17th September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope this update finds you and your family safe and well at the start of this academic year. It has been a whirlwind start to the term at Pool Hayes Academy with students and staff getting reacquainted with the 'normal' day to day academy life. Coming out of Covid bubbles has been a relief for all of us all and students have quickly adjusted to moving to lessons and shorter lesson times. We have also launched our new vision and values for Pool Hayes Academy and it is displayed proudly throughout the campus. After consultation with students, staff, governors and yourselves, I am proud to share our new vision, "Unlocking your Potential - Empowering through Success". Our vision guides our decisions and actions across Pool Hayes Academy and means that any young person, regardless of circumstance, can fulfil their potential at our academy. Furthermore, we believe that educational success leads to empowerment for our young people and the freedom to make more choices over their future. Underpinning our vision are our four values:

- **Aspiration**: We work hard consistently to fulfil our ambitions and achieve our potential.
- **Respect**: We show pride in celebrating diversity, keeping each other safe and accepting everyone in our community.
- **Excellence**: We have high expectations of our conduct and lead by example at all times.
- **Resilience**: We embrace challenge, take risks and grow confidently from our mistakes.

I would like to formally thank those of you who contributed to this consultation in June. We now have a clear vision and set of values for Pool Hayes Academy, and I look forward to working with you in making our academy a truly special place for your child.

Parking

As many of you know, parking around our academy is limited. As I wrote to you in July, the Pool Hayes pub have enforced parking restrictions and these are still in place. I would politely ask that if you are waiting to collect your child around Castle Drive, you please adhere to the double yellow lines. We have 1200 students leaving our site and as you can appreciate, parked cars on Castle Drive pose a significant danger as children leave. I would like to thank those of you who have moved when asked by SLT in order to ensure the safety of our community.

Successes

I have been thrilled these last two weeks with how students have returned to Pool Hayes. Our academy is calm, purposeful and students have been trying very hard in lessons to get our basic expectations right and this has led to some excellent lessons. Year 7 have loved investigating mini beasts in Science; Year 10 have loved reading the play DNA; Year 11 have really started their final year with a determination and resilience which I am really proud of;

Year 8 have thrived in drama creating their own soap operas about a lost remote control (something we can all relate to!); I have enjoyed seeing Year 9 getting to grips with their periodic tables and our Post 16 students have made a fabulous start to their life at the academy. The highlight of my Friday's has been calling parents of students with exceptional positive behaviour points. I could have called hundreds of parents and we will continue to work on rewards to ensure students get the recognition they deserve.

Open Evening

As you may or may not be aware, we are holding our Open Evening for Year 6 parents on the 28th September at 6pm. If you have any children in Year 6 or have any friends or family who do; please invite them to come along and see our #PHAntastic academy.

Uniform

We have worked hard these last two weeks to ensure our uniform standards meet our value of excellence. I would like to thank you for ensuring your child is in the correct uniform and maintains this during their time here at Pool Hayes Academy. We make no apologies for having the highest standards and ensuring students look smart and professional at Pool Hayes Academy.

House System

One of the many things we are bringing back now that Covid restrictions have been relaxed is our house system. Mr Penn has devised a myriad of activities and competitions starting with a football tournament, followed by a 'Countdown' competition during lunch time. It was fantastic seeing Year 10 throw themselves into the football competition this week and long may this continue into the year. Our four houses are: Vaughan, Carpenter, Hodson and Parkes (purple) and are named after local locksmiths from Willenhall. There will be many more competitions to come!

Finally, I would like to thank you all for your support and patience with us over the Covid testing programme. Students conducted themselves brilliantly and this means that testing in our academy has finished for now, however this is due to be reviewed at the end of September by the government. Can I please ask that you continue to support your child to take a lateral flow test every Sunday and Wednesday evening. This really helps protect our academy community and all of our families as we enter the winter period. We have made a great start to the year with students focused and making excellent progress in lessons. Despite all the worries around winter and Covid planning, you can be assured we will continue to support and ensure your child thrives this year and fully unlocks their potential.

Have a lovely weekend,



Mr T. McDowall
Principal

