



Friday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope this update finds you well and you have had an enjoyable half term break. It feels like winter has arrived around Pool Hayes and we've been really busy over the half term making adjustments to our site to make our academy even better. There have been alterations around doors and signage to enable students to move around the academy easier and we have had a mini 'reset' which has reminded students of the expectations we have at Pool Hayes. This has all reinforced our values of Respect and Excellence and students have responded brilliantly. As you are aware, we are still adhering to the advice from Walsall Public Health regarding the wearing of face masks in communal areas and restricting assemblies. This has seen a slight decrease in the number of cases at Pool Hayes Academy and across the area and I am truly grateful for your support on this.

### **Sixth Form Open Evening**

Unfortunately, we have had to postpone our Sixth Form Open Evening due to be held on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> November until the new year. However, we are still planning virtual activities on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> November. Our website will contain a raft of information for students in Year 11 on the courses and wide range of opportunities available to them. Also, our Sixth Form will be 'taking over' our Twitter account on that day so look out for updates. We will run a face to face event after Christmas and look forward to welcoming Year 11 families to Pool Hayes Academy.

### **Y11 Mock Exams**

Year 11 are currently in the middle of their busy mock window and I have been so impressed and proud of their attitude and reliance so far. They really have been excellent and have made a great start. If you can support them with revision and sundown sessions it will really help their grades next year. They have a busy week next week but I know they will continue to try hard and make the most of these exams. We want students to perform to their best in May and June so these mocks are a crucial milestone for the year. We also have a revision space available for all Year 11 students in the form of Revision Breakfast Club, which is taking place every day from Tuesday 2nd November until Tuesday 16th November, 8:15 - 8:45am during our mock exam series. Breakfast will be provided so if your child wants to come in before the start of the day to get prepared they are very welcome!

### **Parent Governor**

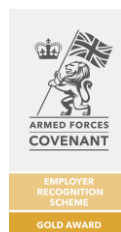
We have an exciting opportunity for a new Parent Governor at Pool Hayes Academy. There will be an additional letter explaining the role coming out to you over the next few days with details on how to apply. Governors play a crucial role at Pool Hayes Academy and I would welcome, any interest. If you would like to talk to me first, please email the academy to arrange a suitable time.



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Pool Hayes Academy is on Instagram & Twitter



@poolhayesacad

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## House Competition

The tension was high the week before half term as students participated in our first ever 'Inter House Countdown' tournament. Vaughan rose to victory after some fierce competition and frantic checking of dictionaries! I think most staff were blown away by the speed of the letter and number rounds and the talent on display. Students really enjoyed taking part and there will be more house competitions in the forthcoming weeks to see if Vaughan can stay on top!

## Christmas Holiday Activities

Walsall authority are running a number of Christmas activities for students who are eligible for free school meals. This programme is aiming to provide healthy food and enriching activities during the holidays to children who receive benefits-related free school meals (14,000 children in Walsall). It offers valuable support to families on lower incomes, giving them the opportunity to access rewarding and active activities alongside healthy meals during the school holidays. Walsall delivered a successful programme during Easter and summer where they worked with 50 providers to deliver a combination of healthy recipe boxes, interactive online programme and face to face holiday club engaging with 2995 children (21% of eligible children). Walsall Council want to build on the learning from their Easter and summer programme and develop their strong partnership working with a range of providers to upscale the provision and make it a programme that is attractive and meet the needs of all eligible children and young people.

The provision runs on the following dates: **Monday 20th - Thursday 23rd December and 29th, 30th and 31st December.**

## How do families register?

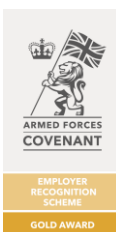
1. A letter will be sent out to eligible children on the 8<sup>th</sup> November 2021 with their unique code.
2. To book and register onto their HAF portal use link; [https://go.walsall.gov.uk/children\\_and\\_young\\_people/haf\\_signup](https://go.walsall.gov.uk/children_and_young_people/haf_signup)
3. Register as a family – they will need each child/ren unique code
4. Book activities
5. Confirmation email & reminder email and text message
6. Provider will be in contact
7. Portal closed on the 10<sup>th</sup> December

## Community Events

The Family Shopper convenience store on Lucknow Road is having an open day on Saturday the 6<sup>th</sup> November from 1pm – 4pm. There will be a number of family activities and refreshments available including 'Goodie Bags' with purchases over £5 in store.

## Treat Tuesday

Due to significantly improved attendance, we will be having 'Treat Tuesday' on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> November where a treat will be given at form time to all students who attend the academy on this day.



Finally, I would like to reflect on what has been a really rewarding half term at Pool Hayes. I feel incredibly privileged to have the job that I have. To be able to walk around our academy each day, see our young people flourish and our staff teams deliver lessons and support of such high-quality day in day out really is a joy.

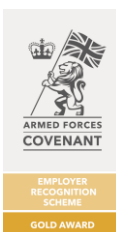
Have a great weekend



Mr T. McDowall  
Principal



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