



Friday 7th January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to start my first update of 2022 by wishing you and your families a Happy New Year. I hope you had a good break and this update finds you in good health. As you are aware, the Omicron variant of Covid-19 is still dominating headlines and our thoughts as we begin 2022. I am happy to report that our in academy testing has revealed no cases in the academy this week. I would like to formally thank you all for regularly testing students and ensuring our community is as safe as possible. Regular testing at home is so important to us as an academy right now. If you can please ensure your child tests regularly on Sunday and Wednesday evenings it is an enormous help to us all. Additionally, if your child is identified by us as a close contact, we would again ask you to help in ensuring your child takes a lateral flow test every day for 7 days. This is in line with national guidelines and will help protect our academy and the wider community. Cases in Walsall are high as they are across the country and you can be assured we are taking every precaution we can, as well as making appropriate contingency plans to support your child's education at Pool Hayes Academy.

Expectations

Our expectations for behaviour and uniform have not changed since the start of the academic year. I was incredibly happy for the positive parental survey I sent out in November where you felt (96% agreed) that we have high expectations. We as an academy, challenge and support students to meet those high expectations and as a result, lessons and learning are improving quickly. As we move into the new year, our challenge is to keep our expectations and standards high consistently across the academy. Standards on uniform and behaviour will remain high and in line with our uniform and behaviour expectations (these can be found on our website). I would like to thank you in advance for your support on this as I know we all want Pool Hayes to be a truly exceptional academy.

Oliver! Production

As referred to in our end of term newsletter, for three nights in December we held an incredibly successful 'Oliver!' production at Pool Hayes Academy. It was an absolute joy to see students acting, singing and dancing with such confidence and pride. It shows that despite all the distractions and uncertainty of the previous 18 months, our students embody our value of resilience and can do anything. Again, I would like to thank all the staff involved and give a preview to our summer production which will be 'Matilda' and will be performed during our summer term. I know this will again be another roaring success and I look forward to seeing you there.

Cold Weather

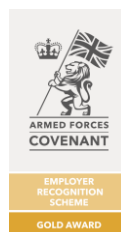
This week the weather has taken a colder turn. However, despite this we still need students to be outside at break and lunchtime as this dramatically reduces their risk of catching



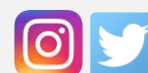
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Pool Hayes Academy is on Instagram & Twitter



@poolhayesacad

Follow us to keep up to date with events and news from our academy.

Covid-19. I would ask that you please ensure your child has a suitable coat and a black jumper (non-branded in line with uniform code) as this will not be changing throughout the winter.

Masks

Students have been brilliant with wearing masks both around our academy and in lessons so far this week. I would ask that you please ensure your child comes to our academy with their own mask. This is because students are wearing them for longer periods of time and they need one they are comfortable with. We will provide masks to students who forget to bring one in, however we have found students often are more comfortable wearing masks when they are their own.

Finally, I hope that you are all staying as safe as possible as we move through this current period of high Covid-19 infections. I would like to leave you with a comment from a supply teacher we had in our academy just yesterday, "You have wonderful children here". I wholeheartedly agree and I can't wait to see our students go on to do amazing things in 2022.

Yours sincerely,



Mr T McDowall
Principal

