

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

The new Spring term is in full flow and we have made a #PHAntastic start to 2022 at Pool Hayes Academy. Students have returned and again embodied our value of resilience and aspiration by working hard and making excellent progress. As you are aware the rules around mask wearing have changed this week and I will outline our response further in this letter. I am also immensely proud of our staff who have really gone above and beyond to support students' learning in the last two weeks. As you may be aware, we have had a rise in Covid cases and our staff have covered lessons, supported break and lunchtimes and risen to every challenge we have faced. I'm sure you would want to join with me in thanking them for their efforts.

#### Face masks or coverings

On Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> January the government advice on face masks or coverings changed. Students are no longer required to wear face masks or coverings in lessons and classrooms. However, if your child would like to continue to wear a face mask or covering in class, this is still acceptable. Furthermore, from Thursday the 27<sup>th</sup> January, masks will no longer be required on corridors or communal areas. Again, if your child would like to continue to wear a mask in corridors or communal areas after this date, this is still acceptable.

#### Dance at Pool Hayes Academy

Last week, Pool Hayes Academy dancers participated in a full day workshop with professional dancers from contemporary hip hop company Avant Garde Dance. After 2 years of Covid disruptions it was brilliant to finally be able to welcome external artists into the studio for face to face sessions, with the students developing key rehearsal etiquette & collaboration skills in performance and choreography. After a very successful day dancing, the students were over the moon to be invited to perform their creations with the company at their performance of 'The Rule of Seven - Illegal Dance' at Walsall Arena & Arts Centre. The immersive promenade performance pushed the students out of their comfort zones but gave them amazing opportunities to work closely with and learn from professional artists, as well as performing to a live audience in a professional venue. The company commented on the hard work & focus of the students throughout, and the Dance department staff are very proud of the students for a #PHAntastic first performance of 2022.

#### Year 11 and Year 13 Mocks

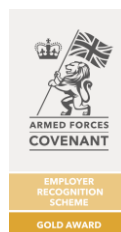
As you are aware, Year 11 and Year 13 are currently preparing for their February and March mock exams. These are incredibly important to the progress of your child and I know they will respond to the challenge of these mocks in a positive manner. I would ask that if your child is in Year 11 and/or Year 13, you ask them how they are feeling and revising for them. They are important, but again provide a great opportunity to identify areas of development



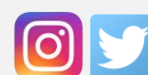
Pool Hayes Academy, Castle Drive, Willenhall, West Midlands, WV12 4QZ

T: 01902 368147 E: [office@poolhayes.atrust.org.uk](mailto:office@poolhayes.atrust.org.uk)

W: [www.poolhayes.atrust.org.uk](http://www.poolhayes.atrust.org.uk)



Pool Hayes Academy is on Instagram & Twitter



@poolhayesacad

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

before the summer. Summer exams are still planned and scheduled to go ahead. We are anticipating exam boards disclosing more details in February and we will inform you of any major changes to content then. For Year 11 and Year 13, their priority is to keep working hard, attend every intervention and revise fully. If they continue to do this, they will be successful.

### Parents Evenings

Thank you for your feedback regarding our recent parents evening for Year 10 in the last fortnight. The evening was a success and we had fantastic attendance to the night. I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that our Post 16 Parents Evening is on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> January. If you have any issues with our online system, please contact a member of our Sixth Form team as soon as possible.

### Friday Hot Chocolate

I have had the true privilege of spending Friday form time with students from each year group who have achieved the most positive Classchart points over the week. This has been an absolute pleasure and will continue at Pool Hayes Academy as it not only enables me to celebrate our success, but also rewards students who meet our expectations and truly live our values of Aspiration, Respect, Excellence and Resilience.

### Parking

Parking around Castle Drive and Pool Hayes Academy is becoming a real issue. I would politely ask that if you pick up your child from our academy, you do so safely and please consider residents access to drives when parking. I fully appreciate parking is a real challenge around Pool Hayes Academy and I am working with our local MP and councilors to try to develop a long term solution.

Finally, it has been great to see new interactive screens go into more classrooms at Pool Hayes Academy this week. This is part of our long term strategy to improve every aspect of our site and classrooms. More students now have access to state of the art learning technology and soon every classroom will have the same cutting edge displays.

I hope you have a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely,



**Mr T McDowall**  
Principal

