

Friday 18th February 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Hello again and I hope you and your family are well at the end of another half term. We've had a #PHAntastic fortnight here at Pool Hayes. Year 11 have settled well into their mock schedule and have really demonstrated our values of aspiration and resilience in working hard and making them count. Despite all the setbacks of the last year and a half, they have responded well to the challenge of a full set of mock exams, and this will really put them in good stead for the summer. Year 13 will follow after the half term break, and I know they will also rise to the challenge. It has been great to see all years working really hard on their subjects and enjoying the fantastic extra-curricular activities we have here at Pool Hayes. Students have loved the basketball club, Matilda auditions and the science club this half term and these give just a small taste of the exciting opportunities we have at our academy.

Year 11 Drama Exam Performance

Year 11 Drama students performed their exam pieces to a captivated audience last week. Their work was powerful moving and illustrated the fantastic talent that has been nurtured here by our drama department over the last 5 years. They did themselves and Pool Hayes proud.

Trips and Visits

Students from all years were lucky to visit the Birmingham Hippodrome theatre last week to see 'The Nutcracker'. A huge thanks to the dance department for organising the visit where students behaved impeccably and loved the performance. Also, students in Year 10, 12 and 13 attended the British Art Show at the Wolverhampton University School of Art and Gallery this week. They took part in a collage workshop exploring underrepresented voices in Britain and were given a tour around the Show by university students. They showed respect, resilience and aspiration and collected lots of inspiration and visual research to help them with their own artwork back in the classroom. Opportunities like this really enrich and enhance our curriculum offer and I am really excited to see more visits and trips planned in the remainder of the academy year.

Lateness to the Academy

As you are aware, we are increasing our expectations around lateness in the morning. We expect your child to be on site at 8:40am in order for lessons to begin at 8:45. Since my last update, punctuality has really improved and I know with your support will continue to get better over the rest of the year and moving forward.

Year 9 Pathways Evening 3rd March 2022

As you are aware, when students move into Year 10 they have more choices over the subjects and curriculum they complete during Key Stage 4. We are inviting our Year 9 parents and carers to have the opportunity to discover our exciting curriculum offer on Thursday 3rd March. We have tweaked our curriculum offer this year to allow students more choice over some of the subjects they want to study. The evening will run from 6pm until 8pm and will be held at our academy. All Year 9 parents and carers have been invited and we are looking forward to seeing you there to discuss your child's exciting opportunities.

Sixth Form Information Evening

We are delighted to announce our rescheduled Sixth Form Information Evening will be held on Tuesday 8th March at 5pm until 6pm. This is open to all parents of Year 11 and Year 10 students interested in attending our Sixth Form in the coming two years. There will be information on our Sixth Form itself and then a marketplace for students and families to find out about each subject and curriculum area they are interested in.

Wolverhampton Young Authors' Prize

I am delighted to praise our four gifted writers who made it to the final of the Wolverhampton Young Authors' Prize 2022 which was held on Thursday 17th February. One of our Year 11 students, EV, came runner up out of over 200 finalists in whole of the West Midlands region. This is astonishing achievement and again shows how much talent we have here at Pool Hayes Academy. We are looking forward to next year already and reading more high quality creative writing from our students.

Hope you have a lovely half term.



Mr T McDowall
Principal

