

Friday 11th March 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this update finds you all in good health. We have welcomed our students back to school this fortnight following the half term break and it has been brilliant to see students in lessons and learning across the academy. As you are aware, Covid restrictions have now been moved to guidance as part of the government's 'Living with Covid strategy'. Although we all welcome the return of some form of normality after the last two years we still need to be vigilant and not become complacent. If your child has symptoms of Covid-19 we recommend they still take a PCR test and isolate in line with national guidelines. We will still provide TEAMS links for live lessons if this happens. The guidance on regular home lateral flow testing has changed and this is no longer required. However, we would ask that if your child has symptoms you still go for a PCR test and this can be via post. Face coverings are no longer compulsory however if your child wants to wear one this is acceptable.

World Book Day

On Thursday 3rd March we marked World Book Day. This was a particularly special year for the event as it was its twenty fifth anniversary. To celebrate, the school held a number of competitions including design a book mark and guess the book in the suitcase. Many staff took the opportunity to dress up. It was great to see lessons being taught by Spanish Dictionaries, Musketeers and fairy tale characters. Meanwhile, in the library, students met Dr Frankenstein and his monster and were asked who the real monster was. During the week, assemblies challenged students to be reading our 18 by 18 booklist with Mr Lawrence reading short stories and extracts from The Book Thief. Students were also issued with a World Book Day Voucher which they can exchange for a World Book Day Book or for a discount on a book of their choice.

A.F. Blakemore Visit

We were delighted to host Blakemore distribution recently at Pool Hayes, who gave a brilliant road safety demonstration on the dangers of lorries on our roads. All students in Year 7 learnt about blind spots, how to ride their bicycles and how to move around a parked lorry safely. We would like to thank Blakemore's for their time and support and their free workshops. Each 20 minute session was really informative and students' behaviour and respect for our visitors were exemplary.

Mocks

Year 11 and Sixth Form students have been brilliant in their effort and behaviour in exams over the past two weeks. They have really embodied our values of aspiration and resilience and this will help them immensely in the summer. We now know more details about the summer exam series. There will be a full suite of exams in the summer for Year 11 and Year

13 and as you can imagine, we are preparing them fully for this. Again, we would like to ask for your support in ensuring students attend interventions sessions after school and are revising fully at home. We will also be offering Easter and May Half Term revision sessions and I look forward to seeing students there consolidating their knowledge before exams start in May.

Year 9 Pathways and Year 11 Options Evenings

It was brilliant to finally hold our Year 9 and Year 11 evenings in the last fortnight. To finally invite parents into Pool Hayes Academy was a pleasure and sharing our #PHAntastic pathways and options was a real delight. We had a brilliant turn out for both events and I'm pleased that our recent changes to the Year 9 Pathways process was met with warmth and support from parents, carers and students alike. I am really looking forward to seeing both Year 9 and Year 11 thrive next year as they move into Key Stages 4 and 5 respectfully.

Y9 Parents' Evening

Again, a huge thank you to Year 9 parents for our record attendance at Year 9 Parents' Evening. The event was a real success and holding it the day before Pathways Evening allowed for students to have informed conversations about their choices and options.

Lates to School

As you are aware, in the last fortnight we have stepped up our efforts to ensure students are arriving on time to our academy. I am delighted to say that we have seen a marked improvement in punctuality and the numbers of students arriving after 8:40am has decreased significantly. I would like to thank you for your support in reinforcing the message that punctuality is important with your child and it is making a real impact. We are not perfect yet, but together we can keep working on this to ensure every student is at Pool Hayes Academy by 8:40am.

Finally, we have all been moved and shocked by the images and details coming out of Ukraine over the past fortnight. We are talking to students about the conflict and trying to address any concerns they may have over this horrendous war and our Sixth Form Leadership team will also be fundraising for appropriate charities over the next few weeks. It is really hard for everyone to imagine the pain and suffering of the Ukrainian people and makes me feel grateful for the security and peace we have here in the UK. What is heartening is the reaction from communities in Europe and the UK to the refugee crisis and supporting Ukrainian families in their darkest hour. We will be doing our small bit to help over the next few weeks and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you in advance for your support in this.

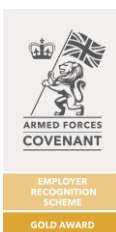
Have a lovely weekend,



Mr T McDowall
Principal



Pool Hayes Academy, Castle Drive, Willenhall, West Midlands, WV12 4QZ
T: 01902 368147 E: office@poolhayes.attrust.org.uk
W: www.poolhayes.attrust.org.uk



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