

Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

I am delighted to share my first Principal's Update of the new academic year. We have had a really strong start to our academic year and have had a wonderful summer sharing in our students' #PHAntastic Key Stage 4 and 5 results. Also, I would like to thank you all so much for supporting us with students' uniform this September. We have seen a dramatic reduction in the number of students who have incorrect uniform and I fully appreciate your support on this. It makes our work so much easier knowing that parents and carers are fully supportive of Pool Hayes. We have also added to our pastoral staffing this year. Now your child has a Head of Year and an Assistant Head of Year in order to support them on their Pool Hayes journey. This change provides more support in our pastoral system and will boost an already excellent team.

### 2022 Results

We had some truly amazing and inspiring results this summer. Our A-level average grade rose from a D+ in 2019 to a B- this year. We also had a record number of students going to top universities and all our students left to either employment, university or apprenticeships. Our GCSE results saw a significant increase in the number of students achieving top grades and achieving a 4 and 5+ in both English and Maths. We had two lovely results days and I would like to thank the class of 2022 for all their efforts and wish them all the best of luck for the future.

### Fixtures

Our extra-curricular offer is now well underway and we have had some amazing results in football already. Our Year 9 team won 16-0 last week! In the coming weeks, more fixtures and netball will take place so it will be brilliant to see more success for Pool Hayes.

### Rewards

One of our key priorities this year is the development of our reward system. We have some work to do in developing this across the whole school this year. My aim is to ensure students who do what we ask, when we ask and meet all of our expectations are rewarded. We have a range of reward plans for this year and this week we had the inflatables event for students, that was unfortunately postponed from July when we had the 40 degree heatwave. We have learned our lessons from this week and I can assure you the next reward event will be clear in its communication to you. I can only apologise if you felt this wasn't the case but we are determined to put it right moving forward. Aside from that, the event was a huge success with students enjoying their reward.

### Winter and Weather

As winter rapidly approaches can I remind you that your child may need a black jumper and a good winter coat. We do not allow 'hoodies' in our academy and they will be confiscated if worn by your child. We have spent a lot of money on developing a lunchtime covered zone over the summer. This facility will enable students to eat lunch outside all year round therefore a good winter coat is essential. If you have any concerns about this, please email the academy and ask for your child's Head of Year or Assistant Head of Year.

### Open Evening and Parents Evenings

We have had a huge number of families attend our Year 6 Open Evening this year and I would like to thank you if you attended. I would also like to thank all the students who helped out and gave a #PHAntastic impression of our academy. We are now a full academy. We have waiting lists for Years 7 and 8 that are over 50 students long and we take pride that more and more families are choosing Pool Hayes.

Finally, at this time of great economic and financial insecurity, we are keenly aware that our community faces a challenging winter. We are here to help. If you have any concerns or issues about purchasing uniform or equipment please contact us and we will privately and confidentially talk to you about how we can support. In challenging and uncertain times, schools and academies provide a certainty for students and young people. We will carry on and continue to challenge and support our students to unlock their potential, regardless of what's happening in the outside world.

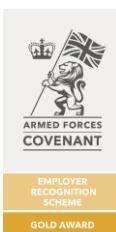
Have a lovely weekend,



**Mr T McDowall**  
Principal



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