



KEY DATES & EVENTS

Turbo Week

Monday 15th - Friday 19th
December

Christmas Fundraising Fair

Wednesday 17th December
5pm - 7pm

Christmas Jumper Day

Friday 19th December (last day
of term)

Last Day of Term

Friday 19th December
12:30pm Finish

Academy Opens

Monday 5th January 2026

Dance Show Auditions

Wednesday 14th January
3.30 - 5pm

MESSAGE FROM OUR HEAD OF ACADEMY

Written by Mrs L. Macey

This week has been #PHAntastic in terms of performances. We have had excellent performances in drama, music and sport. I am so proud of the talent that we have in this Academy, and especially at this time of the year when families are busy, having your support is even more greatly received. I want to highlight one student in particular, Mya Smith in Year 11 who is starring in

the Wolverhampton Grand Theatre performance of Sleeping Beauty. I cannot wait to see her perform this Sunday! Next week, we have turbo week and lots of exciting career opportunities planned throughout the week. I also would like to parents and carers that the Academy will close on Friday 19th December at 12:30pm. Hope you all have a great week ahead.



POWER UP NOTIFICATIONS

A new Sparx Power Up will be available from:

- Maths = Friday at 8am - Deadline Wednesday at 9pm
- Reader = Friday at 8am - Deadline Thursday at 9pm
- Science = Wednesday at 12pm - Deadline Tuesday at 10pm

[Click here to go to Sparx Learning](#)

A new Seneca Power Up (all Key Stages) will now be set **every Monday**.

[Click here to go to Seneca](#)

Languagenut is set once a week.

[Click here to go to Languagenut](#)

SIXTH FORM UPDATES

Our Sixth Form students are excited to be hosting a Christmas Quiz Night on Thursday 12th December to help raise funds for the Wolves Premier League Inspires programme. This initiative, supported by the Premier League Charity Fund and the PFA, is designed to equip young people with the skills, confidence and opportunities they need for a successful future. The programme offers a wide range of support – from workshops, mentoring and practical sessions, to sports clubs, careers guidance and UCAS support. We're proud to be fundraising for a project that directly benefits and empowers our students.

STUDENT SUCCESSES

Our students have had a #PHAntastic week and have earned lots of positive points. As an academy they have achieved **725568 positive points!** The year group with the most points this week was **Year 7** who managed to achieve **9226 points**. **7V1** are this week's form leaders and together as a team they racked up **1439!** A massive congratulations to our students!

Students have also been working hard to complete their Sparx Power Ups. So far as a school this year we have read for **1790 hours** and read **1577 different books!** In Maths we have answered **419900 questions!** In Science we have answered **168768 questions!** On Languagenut students have earned an impressive **421100 points so far this month!**

Congratulations! Amazing work and a great effort from students!! **This week's Power Ups are available on Sparx now.**

IMPORTANT REMINDER:

As part of our 'Not Seen, Not Heard' mobile phone policy, any confiscated phones must be collected by parents/carers **after school only**. Please note, break and lunchtime collections aren't possible due to safeguarding and staffing commitments. We appreciate your understanding.





ATTENDANCE FIGURES



Well done to all year groups who have improved their attendance this week!

Y11 are receiving feedback from their mocks so their attendance is very important to help the not miss out on crucial learning.

Remember that the attendance team can be contacted at PHA-Attendance@atrust.org.uk

Further attendance information can be found on our website: [Attendance - Pool Hayes Academy](#).

SPORTS UPDATE

Our Year 11 football team are through to the next round of the National Cup following another fantastic performance. Despite going into the game 2-0 down, the team showed great determination and teamwork, turning things around to secure an impressive 3-2 victory.

Well done to all involved on a brilliant result.

LATEST LETTERS

Please click on the link below to view our latest letters sent home.

[Letters - Home Page](#)

KEY CONTACTS

Please click on the link below to view contact details for our key academy staff.

[Key Staff - Contact Details](#)

Please see the NHS guidance on illness to help your child:

Coughs and colds

It's fine to send your child to school with slight [cough](#) or [common cold](#) symptoms, such as a runny nose, sore throat or headache, as long as they're otherwise well and do not have a high temperature.

But if they have a high temperature, keep them off school until the temperature has gone.

Sore throat

You can still send your child to school if they have a [sore throat](#). But if they also have a high temperature, they should stay at home until it goes away.



1

WASH

Wash your hands for at least 30 seconds with soap and warm water

COVER

Cover your mouth and nose when cough or sneeze with your elbow or tissue

2

3

DONT' TOUCH

Don't touch your eyes, nose or mouth.

AVOID

Avoid close contact with those who are sick. Wash your hands with sanitizer

4



Christmas Attendance Challenge!

Christmas Discos:
Friday 12th
Friday 19th
Song requests to Mr Dean!



For the next two weeks, a student
will win an Amazon voucher and a
selection box every single day!
All you need to do is attend!

LET'S FINISH STRONG—YOUR STREAK STARTS NOW!



'Reading for Enjoyment'



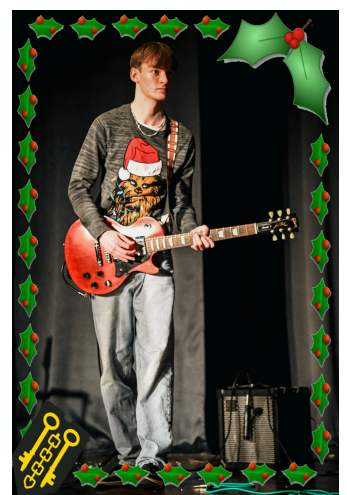
Yesterday, to celebrate reading for enjoyment, our students attended the truly inspirational Two Cities Book Award ceremony, at WGS.

The ceremony included cultural recitals and fascinating talks from authors Polly Cosby, Felicity Epps and this year's award winner Kenechi Udogu.



'PHA Christmas Concert 2025'

Thank you to students, parents, carers and staff for supporting the PHA Christmas Concert 2025 in which students performed amazingly showing excellent festive spirit. We very much look forward to our next music concert. - The Music Department.





PHA In the Community

On Wednesday 10th December Miss Taylor and Mr Lewis accompanied the PHA Choir to Manor House care home in Willenhall for a morning of singing festive songs. Residents were entertained with a set list full of traditional carols and modern repertoire, such as Deck the Halls, Silent Night, 12 Days of Christmas, Last Christmas, Merry Christmas Everyone and many more. During the performance residents joined in with the festivity by singing and clapping along with us. We even had a few requests. It was lovely to hear the residents telling pupils how much they had enjoyed themselves and how wonderful we were. Miss Taylor was extremely impressed with the level of respect pupils shown to residents and will look forward to future performances.





PROTECT YOUR PEACE

NOT SEEN NOT HEARD

Phones constantly trigger your stress response. A phone-free day = less drama, less pressure, more time, more success.

MOBILE PHONES

'NOT SEEN, NOT HEARD'
FOR THE ENTIRE DURATION OF THE ACADEMY DAY, INCLUDING BREAK/LUNCH TIMES.

TAKE A BREAK FROM THE CONSTANT PRESSURE TO RESPOND. NO BLUE TICKS. NO GROUP CHAT EXPECTATIONS. NO OVERTHINKING MESSAGES. JUST YOUR TIME IN SCHOOL

NOT SEEN NOT HEARD

MOBILE PHONES

'NOT SEEN, NOT HEARD'
FOR THE ENTIRE DURATION OF THE ACADEMY DAY, INCLUDING BREAK/LUNCH TIMES.

WE'RE KEEPING YOU SAFE

NOT SEEN NOT HEARD

STATISTICS SHOW MOST SAFEGUARDING INCIDENTS IN SCHOOL START WITH A PHONE.

MOBILE PHONES

'NOT SEEN, NOT HEARD'
FOR THE ENTIRE DURATION OF THE ACADEMY DAY, INCLUDING BREAK/LUNCH TIMES.

YOUR IMAGINATION SWITCHES ON WHEN YOUR PHONE SWITCHES OFF

NOT SEEN NOT HEARD

MOBILE PHONES

'NOT SEEN, NOT HEARD'
FOR THE ENTIRE DURATION OF THE ACADEMY DAY, INCLUDING BREAK/LUNCH TIMES.



WELCOME TO THE CAREERS CORNER!

With just one week until the Christmas break, this space in The Key continues to keep careers at the forefront - sharing pathways, opportunities and ways to feel inspired ahead of next week's Turbo Week.

I'm Mr Lewis, your Careers Lead. This edition highlights Software Development as our Career of the Week and spotlights Digital & Tech as our Industry of the Month, all part of building a careers culture where every student feels informed, confident and supported.

MINI CAREERS FACT OF THE WEEK!

AI AND ROBOTICS CAREERS ARE PREDICTED TO GROW BY OVER 25% IN THE NEXT DECADE.



CAREER OF THE WEEK – SOFTWARE DEVELOPER

What the job is:

Software Developers design, build and maintain computer programs, apps, and systems. They solve problems using code and work on everything from mobile apps to gaming, websites, and AI tools.

Skills needed:

Problem-solving, logical thinking, communication, teamwork, attention to detail, creativity.

Salary range:

£28,000 – £60,000 (senior roles £70,000+).

Training routes:

- College courses in Computing or IT
- Software Developer apprenticeships (Level 3–6)
- University degrees in Computer Science or Software Engineering
- Self-taught routes using coding platforms (Codecademy, FreeCodeCamp, etc.)



INDUSTRY OF THE MONTH

DIGITAL & TECH



Why it matters in Walsall: A fast-growing sector with 900 local jobs, rising demand, and great salaries.

Average salary: £43,497

Typical working hours: Around 37.5 hours per week.

Most in-demand jobs:

- Programmers & software developers
- IT support technicians
- Business analysts & system designers
- IT managers

Most requested skills:

Communication, technical skills, troubleshooting, planning, customer service, SQL, project management, data handling.

Where the jobs are:

Computer consultancy (300), programming (150), telecoms (200), IT services (150), publishing & digital media (100).

Why consider it:

High salaries, flexible work, remote opportunities, and some roles don't require a degree.

ASK MR LEWIS

What if I pick the wrong college course - can I change my mind later?

Yes. Most colleges let you switch early on if another course suits you better.

Submit your questions to Mr Lewis - michael.lewis@atrust.org.uk

or find him at the back of the common room!

UPCOMING DATES!

December

Mon 15 - Fri 19 Dec - Turbo Week - Pool Hayes Academy

January

Thursday 8th January 2026 - Birmingham City University Open Day

Saturday 17th January 2026 - Walsall College Open Day