



KEY DATES & EVENTS

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

As we come to the end of the first term, I would like to thank you for your continued support and partnership with the school. This term has been a productive one, marked by steady academic progress, positive student engagement, and growth in both character and kindness among our learners.

Our students have worked diligently in their studies and co-curricular activities, and we are proud of the effort and resilience they have shown. We have ended our first term on a real high, with rewards assemblies throughout the day on Thursday, the attendance disco on Thursday lunchtime, and the bowling rewards trip today.

As students take a well-deserved break, I encourage them to rest, revise where necessary, and engage in positive activities that promote personal development and wellbeing. For parents and carers of Year 11, please take time to review your child's academic report and discuss areas of strength as well as opportunities for improvement.

I look forward to welcoming students back for the next term refreshed and ready to continue striving for excellence on Monday 5th January 2026. Thank you once again for your trust and cooperation.

I wish you and your families a safe and restful Christmas holiday.



ATTENDANCE

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

Remember that the attendance team can be contacted at PHA-Attendance@attrust.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. 5-2 final score for PHA

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



Art Christmas Fair

The Art Department's Christmas Fair was a huge success and a wonderful way to end the term. The event showcased the creativity, hard work and talent of our students, with a fantastic range of handmade artwork and festive pieces on display. They raised a wonderful £234!

We would like to thank all pupils, parents, carers and members of the community who joined us and supported the fair. A special thank you also goes to the staff and students who gave their time, effort and creativity to help plan, create and run the event, your enthusiasm and teamwork made it such a success. They raised It was a lovely celebration of creativity and community, and we are incredibly proud of everyone involved.





WELCOME TO THE CAREERS CORNER!

As we finish the term, this space in The Key keeps careers at the centre - sharing guidance, opportunities and reminders before we head into Christmas. Wishing all our students and families a very Merry Christmas.

I'm Mr Lewis, your Careers Lead. This week we spotlight Christmas Events Coordinator and introduce Mythbusters, alongside a reminder that Walsall College and UCAS deadlines are approaching in January, helping every student feel informed, confident and supported.

MINI CAREERS FACT OF THE WEEK!

THERE ARE APPRENTICESHIPS IN MUSEUM CURATION, HERITAGE, AND CONSERVATION - PERFECT FOR HISTORY LOVERS.

CAREER OF THE WEEK - CHRISTMAS EVENTS COORDINATOR



What the job is:

Christmas Events Coordinators plan and run festive activities such as markets, light switch-ons, winter fairs, and seasonal celebrations. They organise venues, manage schedules, work with performers and vendors, and ensure events run smoothly.

Skills needed:

Organisation, communication, creativity, teamwork, problem-solving, attention to detail.

Salary range:

£20,000 - £35,000 (with higher pay for full-time events roles year-round).

Training routes:

- College courses in Events Management or Business
- Events apprenticeships (Level 3-5)
- University degrees in Events Management, Hospitality or Marketing
- Experience volunteering at local community events or festivals



MYTHBUSTER



Tackling the most common misconceptions students have about education and the world of work.

Myth: "You have to go to university to get a good job."

Reality: Many high-paying careers - including policing, engineering, digital tech, business, and healthcare - now offer degree apprenticeships where you earn a salary and finish with a degree.

Myth: "Apprenticeships are only for trades."

Reality: There are apprenticeships in law, nursing, aerospace, finance, software development, and even fashion.



Myth: "If I don't know what career I want at 16, I'm behind."

Reality: You're not. Most adults still figure things out in their 20s and 30s. Exploration is normal.

Myth: "Once you choose a path after Year 11, you're stuck with it."

Reality: Education isn't a one-way system. Many students switch courses, change colleges, move from vocational to academic routes, or restart at a different level. What matters is finding the right fit.



ASK MR LEWIS

Is it normal to not have a clue what I want to do in Year 11?

Very normal. Most people decide much later - you're not behind. You Careers appointment will help!

Submit your questions to Mr Lewis - michael.lewis@atrtrust.org.uk or find him at the back of the common room!

UPCOMING DATES!

January

Thursday 8th January 2026 - Birmingham City University Open Day

Saturday 17th January 2026 - Walsall College Open Day

Wednesday 21st January 2026 - Wolverhampton College Open Event



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

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FOR THE ENTIRE DURATION OF THE ACADEMY DAY, INCLUDING BREAK/LUNCH TIMES.