

## KEY DATES & EVENTS

**Sixth Form Parents Evening**  
Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February

**Bryntysilio Information Evening**  
Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February

**Academy Closes (Half Term)**  
Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2026

**Academy Opens**  
Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026

**Athens Information Evening**  
24<sup>th</sup> February 2026

## MESSAGE FROM OUR HEAD OF ACADEMY

*Written by Mrs L. Macey*

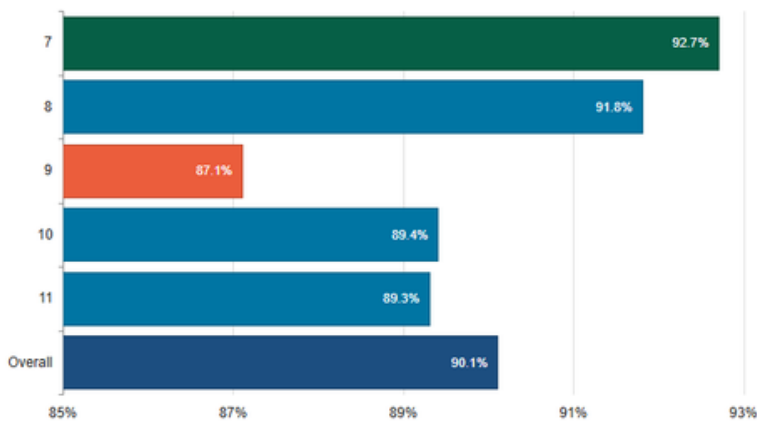
As we move into our final week of this half term, I would like to highlight all the positive things that have been happening. Our new build is coming along nicely, and 7 new maths classrooms will be ready after the Easter break. We will then be moving the Spanish department into what was the Maths corridor as the portacabins will be removed over the Easter break too. I am very proud that one of our Year 13 students, Leah Hulse has been offered a place at Birmingham University to read Medicine. This is a tremendous achievement! Read more about this further along in this newsletter.

Next week our Year 11 students begin their final mock examination period, I hope that they have been utilising intervention sessions and have revision timetables for after school and weekends to prepare for these. Breakfast will be provided for all of them from 8:10am every morning of the exam period. I hope you have a restful weekend.





## ATTENDANCE



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

Currently each Year Group are in competition to improve their attendance by the end of term. For the year group who improves the most compared to the start of half term, EVERY STUDENT will be invited to a rewards event on the final day of term with prizes for all. Currently Y11 are leading but every child makes a difference!

Remember that the attendance team can be contacted at [PHA-Attendance@attrust.org.uk](mailto:PHA-Attendance@attrust.org.uk)

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

Did you know you that it only takes **19 days off** in an academic year for your child to be significantly impacted on their GCSE outcomes? Each 19 days equates to a lost grade at GCSE. How many days has your child missed? Support for you and your child can be found on our website: [Attendance - Pool Hayes Academy](#) and from our attendance team and form tutors.



## SPORTS UPDATE

Reminder that PE kit needs to be brought for every lesson.

After school clubs are back on

Tuesday - Football and Fitness

Wednesday - Basketball and Fitness

Thursday - Netball, Fitness and Badminton

## 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](#)



## 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](#)

## STUDENT SUCCESSES

Our students have had a #PHAntastic week and have earned lots of positive points. As an academy they have achieved **970187 positive points!** The year group with the most points this week was **Year 8** who managed to achieve **8845 points**. **11H2** are this week's form leaders and together as a team they racked up **1493!** 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 **2638 hours** and read **2383 different books!** In Maths we have answered **575932 questions!** In Science we have answered **222422 questions!** On Languagenut students have earned an impressive **196600 points 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.



## STUDENT SUCCESS

We are incredibly proud to celebrate the success of one of our Year 13 students, Leah Hulse, who has been offered a place to study Medicine at the University of Birmingham.

Head of Academy message:

"I am very proud that one of our Year 13 students, Leah Hulse, has been offered a place at Birmingham University to read Medicine. This is a tremendous achievement!"

### What inspired you to apply for a degree in Medicine?

"When I was 13, my mum was diagnosed with breast cancer. It was a really tough time, and I began to feel powerless because I didn't have the knowledge or understanding of the disease to help her in a way that was effective.

She would often come home after her treatments and talk about one doctor who supported her throughout the whole process, making her feel as though she would get through it. Seeing the way she beamed when she spoke about him filled me with a desire to be that hero for someone else - to help others in the ways I wasn't able to help her."



### What was the interview process like?

"Receiving my interview offers was such an exciting feeling, pushing me one step closer to my dream career. That's when preparation really began. I researched medical ethics, the values of the National Health Service, and kept up to date with medical news in the UK. I also explored university websites to understand their teaching methods, research opportunities, and societies. Birmingham was my first choice, so while I was most anxious for that interview, I put a lot of time

into understanding their values and relating both my work and life experiences to medicine. Although the interview itself was extremely nerve-racking, the interviewers were friendly and welcoming, which instantly put me at ease."

### What is one thing you will take away from your time at PHA?

"I haven't always had a passion for science. It was something I struggled with in my early years, and I often changed my mind about my future aspirations. PHA made me feel that it's okay not to have all the answers straight away, and that it's important to follow what feels right.

It wasn't until GCSE science that my love for human biology began to grow, which led me to research careers where I could use this passion alongside the practical learning I experienced at PHA."

### What advice would you give to your fellow students at PHA?

*"You don't know how capable you are until your hard work opens doors you once only dreamed of."*




## OUR RECENT POSTS




### BRYNTYSILIO PARENTS EVENING


An opportunity to go through key travel details and ask any questions





Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February



5:30pm




Sixth Form Centre

### Why Attending Every Lesson & Form Time Matters

At Pool Hayes Academy, our expectations are rooted in our four core values:

- RESILIENCE**  
Building strong routines helps students stay focused, confident and ready to face challenges.
- ASPIRATION**  
Being present supports ambition, goal-setting and positive steps towards future success.
- EXCELLENCE**  
Consistent attendance leads to stronger learning, progress and achievement.
- RESPECT**  
Attending lessons on time shows respect for learning, teachers and peers.



### VISITING THE ACADEMY



To help us keep our students safe and ensure staff availability, parents and visitors should not attend the Academy without prior arrangement.

Visits to the Academy should only take place if:

- A member of staff has arranged your visit
- An appointment or meeting has been scheduled
- You have been contacted regarding the collection of your child




Thank you for your understanding and continued support.




### MEET OUR #PHAMILY

**Miss Fox**  
PASTORAL - STUDENT SUPPORT

- ★ **WORDS YOU LIVE BY:**  
"Aim high, you don't know until you try"
- ★ **FEEL-GOOD SONG:**  
Red Light Spells Danger - Billy Ocean
- ★ **CURRENTLY WATCHING:**  
Six Nations Rugby from tomorrow!
- ★ **FAVOURITE SUBJECT:**  
I loved PE & Art when I was in school
- ★ **FAVOURITE THING TO DO ON THE WEEKEND:**  
Escape in the campervan with my dog, Willow



## WELCOME TO THE CAREERS CORNER!

As we move towards the Lunar New Year, this space in The Key keeps careers front and centre - sharing opportunities, guidance and ideas that encourage progress and forward thinking.

I'm Mr Lewis, your Careers Lead, and this week we spotlight Social Work as our Career of the Week, continuing to build a strong careers culture where every student feels informed, confident and supported.

### MINI CAREERS FACT OF THE WEEK!

THERE ARE OVER 350 NHS CAREERS FROM RADIOGRAPHY AND PROSTHETICS TO IT, ENGINEERING AND CREATIVE ROLES.



### CAREER OF THE WEEK – SOCIAL WORKER

**What the job is:**

Social Workers support children, families, and adults facing difficult circumstances. They assess needs, provide guidance, and help people access the right services to improve their wellbeing.

**Skills needed:**

Empathy, communication, problem-solving, resilience, organisation, relationship-building.

Salary range:

**Salary range:**

£28,000 – £45,000 (advanced roles £50,000+).

**Training routes:**

- University degree in Social Work
- Degree apprenticeships (Level 6)
- Specialist training programmes (e.g., Step Up to Social Work)
- Ongoing CPD for specific pathways



## Staff Career Spotlight



**Name:** Mrs Patrick

**Current Role:** Head of Sixth Form / Health & Social Care / Child Development / Psychology

**What happened after Year 11?**

Mrs Patrick continued into post-16 education before studying Social Work at university, building the knowledge and skills needed to support others.

**Previous Job Roles:**

- Quality Assurance – developing attention to detail
- Equine Assistant – gaining specialist practical skills
- Social Worker – supporting individuals and families
- Childminder – working closely with children

**Mrs Patrick's career path shows:**

Career paths aren't always direct. Exploring interests and gaining experience can lead to the right role over time.

**Advice for students:**

Follow your interests, explore opportunities, and don't settle - the right career should reflect who you are.



### ASK MR LEWIS

Can I get into university with BTECs or T-Levels?

Yes - many unis accept them. It depends on the course. Do your research!

Submit your questions to Mr Lewis - [michael.lewis@atrust.org.uk](mailto:michael.lewis@atrust.org.uk)

or find him at the back of the common room!

### UPCOMING DATES!

*February!*

Mon 9th - Fri 13th February 2026 - National Apprenticeship Week

Thursday 12th February 2026 - Walsall College - T Level and Apprenticeship Open Day

*March*

Saturday 14th March 2026 - Wolverhampton University - Undergraduate Open Day



Unlocking Your Potential  
Empowering Through Success



## Lunchtime

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
The Library	The Library	The Library	The Library	The Library
Badminton	Badminton	Badminton	Badminton	
Basketball	Basketball	Basketball	Basketball	
Science club	Chess Club	Music Club		
Drama Ambassador Meeting		Dance Club		
		Science club		
		Senior Vocal Group		
		PHA1 Club (Week B)		

Aspiration    Respect    Excellence    Resilience

*be more....*

Unlocking Your Potential  
Empowering Through Success



## After School

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Mytutor (Year 11 only)	Football - until 4:30pm	Basketball - until 4:30pm	Badminton - until 4:30pm	Mytutor (Year 11 only)
	Fitness Centre - until 4:30pm	Fitness Centre - until 4:30pm	Netball - until 4:30pm	Drama Rehearsals - until 4pm
	KS4 Dance Club - until 4:30pm (after Oct half term)	The Library - until 4pm	Fitness Centre - until 4:30pm	Musical rehearsals
	The Library - until 4pm	Science STEM Club - until 4:15pm	Junior Choir - until 4:15pm	Year 11 Music Club
	Art and Craft Club - until 4:30pm	Year 11 Music Club	The Library - until 4pm	
	Year 11 Music Club	Musical rehearsals	Year 11 Music Club	

Aspiration    Respect    Excellence    Resilience

*be more....*



**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.



# GCSE MATHS

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> - Thursday 5<sup>th</sup>

## 100–98 DAYS TO GO

### ANSWERS

## FOUNDATION

### 100 Days to Go: Four Operations

- (1)  $655 + 174 = 829$     (2)  $845 - 272 = 573$     (3)  $52 \times 17 = 884$   
(4)  $1144 \div 8 = 143$     (5) 367 people

### 99 Days to Go: Rounding

- (1)  $235 \rightarrow 200$     (2)  $7680 \rightarrow 8000$     (3)  $5.18 \rightarrow 5.2$     (4)  $\pounds 384 \rightarrow \pounds 380$   
(5)  $46781 \rightarrow 50000$     (6) Lowest population = 11500    Highest population = 12499  
(7) 2549 sheep

### 98 Days to Go: Order of Operations

- (1)  $5 + 2 \times 9 = 23$     (2)  $3 + 5^2 = 28$     (3)  $(9 + 4) \times (100 \div 25) = 52$   
(4)  $50 - 2^3 \times 4 = 18$

## HIGHER

### 100 Days to Go: Angles in Parallel Lines

- (1) d and f    (2)  $80^\circ$  (corresponding angles are equal)  
(3)  $126^\circ$  (co-interior angles add to  $180^\circ$ )    (4)  $19^\circ$

### 99 Days to Go: Angles in Polygons

- (1)  $97^\circ$     (2)  $1260^\circ$     (3) 24 sides    (4)  $108^\circ$     (5)  $24^\circ$  and  $156^\circ$     (6) 60 sides

### 98 Days to Go: Pythagoras

- (1) 10cm    (2) 8.72cm    (3) Yes, as  $8^2 + 15^2 = 17^2$     (4) 77.16cm