



03/07/26

PARENT & CARER NEWSLETTER



MESSAGE FROM OUR HEAD OF ACADEMY

Written by Mrs L. Macey

We have had a truly #PHAntastic week in the Academy filled with an array of opportunities for our pupils. Our Science department hosted a 'big bang' day where students met some animals and heard all about their habitats. Our Year 10 Geographers completed their fieldwork in Birmingham. Our Bronze Duke of Edinburgh pupils were practising putting up tents and reading maps in preparation for their expedition. We also welcomed back our year 11 cohort for their PHA6th induction day and Years 10 and 12 were involved in work experience activities. Moreover, last night we attended the Academy Transformation Trust awards where we had finalists in 7 categories. I am very pleased to announce that Mr Monksfield won the Belonging Award, Mrs

KEY DATES & EVENTS

7th - 10th July

The Wizard of Oz School Show

15th July

Belonging Day - All Years

15th July

PHA Proud Evening

16th July

Sports Day

17th July

Academy Closes to students for Summer Break

Betts won the Enabling Education Colleague of the Year award, and the Senior Leadership team won Team of the Year!

Tonight, we look forward to celebrating with our wonderful Year 11 pupils at their prom. It has been a very busy but fulfilling week and next week we look forward to hosting some of our feeder primary schools at our matinee shows of 'Wizard of Oz'. I hope you have a great weekend, and hopefully the England football team give us something to celebrate on Monday!





03/07/26

PARENT & CARER NEWSLETTER

ATTENDANCE

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.



Each week of 100% attendance earns your child a raffle ticket into our half term prize draw - this will take place during the last week of term. Plus, if your child consistently earns positive points, they will be given extra chances to win!

We hope that you and your families have been enjoying the World Cup so far if you are football supporters! England next play on Tuesday and we're looking forward to hearing what your children thought on Wednesday!

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](#).

See our new attendance section on the next page of this newsletter for more!

LATEST LETTERS

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

[Letters - Home Page](#)



SPORTS UPDATE

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

After school clubs on:

Tuesday - Football and Fitness

Wednesday - Basketball and Fitness

Thursday - Netball, Fitness and Badminton



KEY CONTACTS

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

[Key Staff - Contact Details](#)



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Warm Weather Options continuing, week commencing Monday 6th July

To enable students, families and staff to enjoy the match, despite the unusually late kick-off time of 1:00am, the academy will operate a delayed start to the school day on Monday 6th July.

The academy will therefore open to students at 10:00am. Students who wish to arrive in school earlier will still be able to do so from 8:45am with breakfast available, at 9am students will be directed to do supervised, independent work in our library or 6th form.



Pool Hayes
Academy

THE KEY

03/07/26

PARENT & CARER NEWSLETTER

 Pool Hayes Academy **6th July**

 **HOT WEATHER
UNIFORM
UPDATE** 

STUDENTS MAY WEAR:

OPTION 1	OPTION 2	OPTION 3
Full Academy uniform <u>without</u> the blazer	Academy PE Top with school trousers/skirt	Full Academy PE Kit (PE Shorts ONLY, No Lycra tight shorts)
		



Gold Standard



Acceptable



Acceptable



Unsuitable



Unsuitable



Unsuitable



Gold Standard



Acceptable



Acceptable



Unsuitable



Unsuitable



Unsuitable

Academy PE Kit - TOP

PHA Logo Shorts
OR
PLAIN Black Shorts



NOT Lycra/Hot
Pants/Leggins/
Brand name shorts

Academy PE Kit - SHORTS

PHA Logo Shorts
OR
PLAIN Black Shorts



NOT Lycra/Hot
Pants/Leggins/
Brand name shorts



Pool Hayes
Academy

THE KEY

PARENT & CARER NEWSLETTER

SAFEGAURDING



Pool Hayes
Academy

HELPLINE CONTACTS FOR STUDENTS

YoungMinds – www.youngminds.org.uk (Mental Health Support)

Childline – 0800 1111 OR www.childline.org

Kooth – “Need to talk” online support www.kooth.com
(online support and counselling)

Frank – Call 03001236600 OR www.talktofrank.com
(Support for substance misuse)

Samaritans – Call 116 123

Kaleidoscope Group – www.kaleidoscopeplus.org.uk
(Supporting Mental Health)

St Giles Hospice – www.stgileshospice.com/phoenix
(Supporting with bereavement)

Chat Health – www.healthforteens.co.uk
(General concerns around health & wellbeing)



ASKING
— for —
HELP
is OK

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.



03/07/26

PARENT & CARER NEWSLETTER

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.

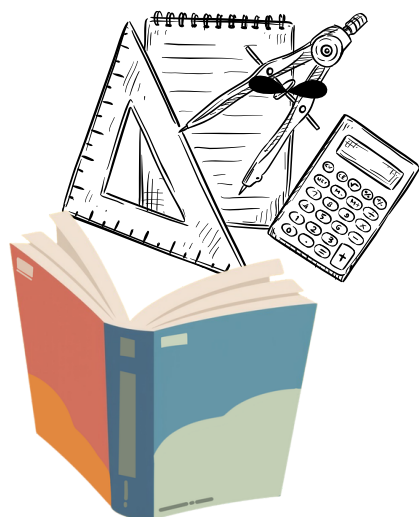
[Click here to go to Languagenut](#)

STUDENT SUCCESS

Our students have had a #phatastic week at school and have earnt lots of positive points. As a school they have achieved **1533884** positive points! The year group with the most points this week was **Year 9** who managed to achieve **4061** points. **9V1** are this week's form leaders and together as a team they racked up **732**! 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 **4386** hours and read **3799** different books! In Maths we have answered **895208** questions! In Science we have answered **344753** questions! On Languagenut student have earned an impressive **208300** points this month!

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



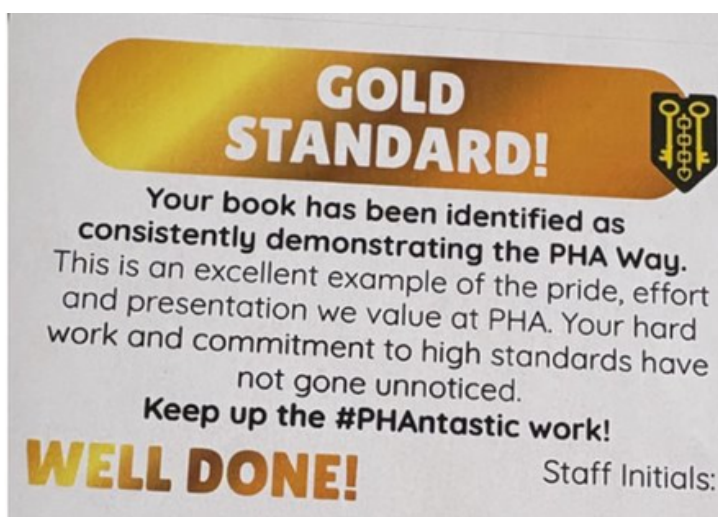


03/07/26

PARENT & CARER NEWSLETTER

Celebrating Pride in Work at Pool Hayes Academy

At Pool Hayes Academy, we are continuing to place a strong focus on students taking pride in the presentation and quality of their work. Through our Pride in Work strategy, students are supported to produce well-organised, carefully presented work, respond to feedback, and continually improve. This week has seen 14 new Gold Standard awards issued!



The following students were celebrated this week for achieving our Gold Standard award:

Y7: Jack C, Hargun K, Evie A

Y8: Sophie A, Amelia W, Jack D, Thomas H



Congratulations!



Pool Hayes
Academy

THE KEY

26/06/26

PARENT & CARER NEWSLETTER

**One of last weeks Writer
of the Week winners:
Keira R Y10 with Mrs
Macey**



Keep an eye on upcoming
newsletters for our next
winners!



This weeks winners:

Chosen by Spanish.

KS3 Thomas H

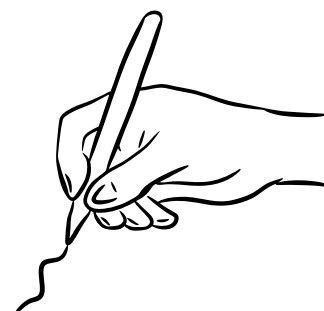
KS4 Ekampreet S



Well done to you both!



Congratulations!





03/07/26

PARENT & CARER NEWSLETTER



WELCOME TO THE CAREERS CORNER!

As we begin July and the end of the academic year comes into view, this space in The Key keeps careers front and centre - sharing opportunities, pathways and ideas for the future.

I'm Mr Lewis, your Careers Lead, and this week we spotlight Architect 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!

ARCHITECTS DO MORE THAN DESIGN BUILDINGS - THEY CREATE SCHOOLS, HOSPITALS, HOMES AND SUSTAINABLE SPACES FOR THE FUTURE.



CAREER OF THE WEEK - ARCHITECT

What the job is:

Architects design buildings and spaces, balancing creativity with safety and practical requirements. They work with clients, engineers and builders to turn ideas into real structures.

Skills needed:

Creativity, design skills, communication, problem-solving, attention to detail.

Salary range:

£30,000 - £55,000 (senior roles £65,000+).

Training routes:

- Architecture degree (RIBA Part 1, 2 and 3)
- Architectural apprenticeships (Level 6-7)
- College Art/Design/Construction courses for preparation
- Experience in architectural practices



MYTHBUSTER



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

Myth: "Only academic students do well after school."

Reality: Success comes in many forms. Practical, creative, and technical skills are just as valuable as academic ones.

Myth: "You need work experience to get work experience."

Reality: Everyone starts somewhere. Employers value attitude, willingness to learn, and transferable skills as much as experience.

Myth: "Creative careers don't pay well."

Reality: Roles in design, media, games, and marketing can be well paid, especially with experience and strong skills.

Myth: "Your GCSE options decide your entire future."

Reality: GCSE choices influence your next steps, but they don't lock you into one career. Pathways remain flexible.



ASK MR LEWIS

How do I choose between universities if the courses are similar?

Visit open days and compare location, support, placements and vibe.

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

or find him at the back of the common room!

UPCOMING DATES!

Saturday 4th July - The University of Wolverhampton - Open Day

Thur 13th August - A Level Results Day

Thur 20th August - GCSE Results Day



Pool Hayes
Academy

THE KEY

PARENT & CARER NEWSLETTER

Unlocking Your Potential
Empowering Through Success



Lunchtime

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

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

Aspiration Respect Excellence Resilience

be more....



Pool Hayes
Academy

THE KEY

PARENT & CARER NEWSLETTER

THE WIZARD of Oz YOUTH EDITION

- £6 - ADULT
- £5 - CHILD / CONCESSION
- £20 - FAMILY (2 ADULTS 2 CHILDREN)

Tuesday 7th July
Wednesday 8th July
Thursday 9th July
Friday 10th July

7pm
Pool Hayes Academy Main Hall

TICKETS NOW ON SALE

Don't miss your chance to see this year's production, we can't wait to showcase the incredible talent of our students in **The Wizard of Oz Youth Edition**, July 7th–10th 2026!

Tickets can be purchased from the Drama office.
Please see Mr Monksfield or Miss Kelly at break and lunch.





Pool Hayes
Academy

THE KEY

PARENT & CARER NEWSLETTER

Academy Transformation Trust

Pool Hayes Academy

PHAntastival 2026

LIVE AT
POOL HAYES
ACADEMY

SUNDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER
12PM-4PM

 TO RENT A STALL, CONTACT
PHA-OFFICE@ATTRUST.ORG.UK 

 **TICKETS SOLD AT GATE** 

INDIVIDUAL £5
FAMILY (2 ADULT 2 CHILDREN) £10

ALL UNDER 18S MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT



Free School Meals

UPDATE

Changes From September 2026



Overview

Significant changes to Free School Meals (FSM) will take effect from September 2026:

- FSM eligibility will expand to all households receiving Universal Credit
- Transitional protections will end in July 2026
- All existing FSM claims will be rechecked
- FSM eligibility will be reviewed annually going forward
- For more information visit:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/free-school-meals-guidance-for-schools-and-local-authorities>

All pupils currently eligible will remain entitled until the end of the 2025–26 academic year.

New FSM Categories

From September 2026, FSM will be recorded under two categories:

Targeted FSM (existing criteria)

Applies to pupils in lower-income households:

- Universal Credit with household earnings below £7,400
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Families with no recourse to public funds

Entitlement:

- Free school meals
- Pupil Premium
- Home to School Transport eligibility
- Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme

Expanded FSM (new category)

Applies to pupils:

- Universal Credit with household earnings above £7,400

Entitlement:

- Free school meals only





PARENT & CARER NEWSLETTER



Free School Meals team

Here to help!

Dedicated School contact number:
01922 650 443

Secure email for FSM password
protected enquiry forms:
FreeSchoolMeals@walsall.gov.uk

What's Continuing

- We will continue to carry out regular eligibility checks using the benefit data we hold to identify children who may be entitled to Free School Meals
- Newly identified children will be added to the scheme as either Targeted or Expanded, depending on eligibility
- The process for claiming Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) remains unchanged and must be claimed through the Synergy portal.

From September 2026, schools will receive updated FSM eligibility reports which will include:

- All pupils eligible for FSM recorded as:
 - Targeted, or
 - Expanded
 - Verification date

Asylum & Immigration Cases

- Pupils supported under asylum legislation remain eligible for Targeted FSM
- A separate process will be used where families do not have a National Insurance number
- Parents and carers can apply online and upload supporting evidence to support their application

Other help and support for local residents across the borough

- Cost of living support
Benefits and cost of living support | Walsall Council
- Walsall Connected – Get help to get online and access council services
<https://go.walsall.gov.uk/people-and-communities/walsall-connected-get-help-get-online> [go.walsall.gov.uk]
- Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF)
<https://go.walsall.gov.uk/benefits/crisis-and-resilience-fund-crf> [go.walsall.gov.uk]
- Holiday Activity Programme (HAF)
<https://go.walsall.gov.uk/children-and-young-people/holiday-activities-programme-haf>

Nursery School

- FSM applies to eligible nursery pupils attending before and after lunch
- From September 2026, pupils will be recorded as Targeted or Expanded

