



10/07/26

PARENT & CARER NEWSLETTER



KEY DATES & EVENTS

15th July

Belonging Day - All Years

15th July

PHA Proud Evening

16th July

Sports Day

17th July

Academy Closes to students for
Summer Break

MESSAGE FROM OUR HEAD OF ACADEMY

Written by Mrs L. Macey

In our penultimate week, the Academy has been extremely busy. Our school show has been a huge highlight for us, with 10% of the whole Academy involved within the show. There is still an opportunity for you to join us the evening to see our final performance of 'The Wizard of Oz'. Thank you to all our students who have attended over the past few days especially with the rising temperature. We are learning new ways of coping with these increasing temperatures and will continue to do so. Next week is very exciting as we have a lot of positive rewards planned. On Monday, we have inflatables and the ice cream man is returning for those students in the top 25% of each year group for positive points this year, Wednesday is our belonging day, where

students can wear cultural dress, or clothing that represents the groups they are part of such as girl guides, scouts etc. Thursday is Sport Day and Friday is end of term rewards day. I also look forward to rewarding some of our students at our Pride of Pool Hayes event on Wednesday evening alongside Manny Singh. I hope you all have a wonderful weekend.





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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
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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



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PARENT & CARER NEWSLETTER

OFFICIAL

Water Safety Awareness Message from West Midlands Fire Service

During the hot spell over the late May Bank Holiday weekend and half-term holiday, there were a number of tragic incidents around the country, many involving young people. The forecast over the coming weeks is for temperatures to rise again.

To keep yourself and your loved ones safe around water please be aware of the following:

- Of all drownings in 2025, 57% took place in inland water – canals, rivers, lakes, ponds – the type of bodies of water we have lots of in the West Midlands.
- Even if the weather is warm the water may be cold, causing your body to go into cold water shock.
- If you fall into water Float to Live – put your head back, float on your back and keep yourself stable by using small movements of your hands.
- Once you are stable you may call for help or swim to the bank if it is feasible.
- Do not go into the water to save people or pets. Call 999 and ask for the Fire Service.

For more information about staying safe around water please visit the West Midlands Fire Service water safety page (<https://www.wmfs.net/safety/water-safety/>) or the RNLI Education Resources page (<https://rnli.org/youth-education/education-resources>).



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)
		



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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.



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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.

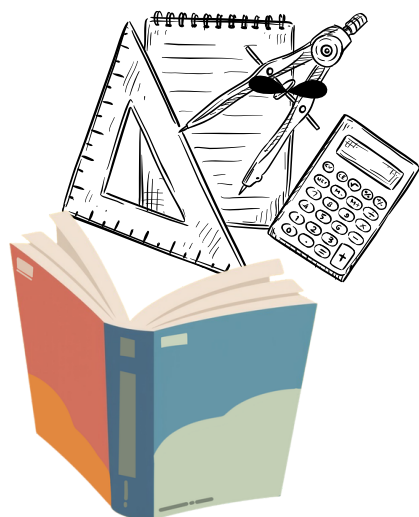
[Click here to go to Languagenut](#)

STUDENT SUCCESS

Our students have had a #phatastic week at school and have earnt lots of positive points. As a school they have achieved **1552951** positive points! The year group with the most points this week was **Year 9** who managed to achieve **5299** points. **10P1** are this week's form leaders and together as a team they racked up **891**! 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 **4436** hours and read **3828** different books! In Maths we have answered **897847** questions! In Science we have answered **350098** questions! On Languagenut student have earned an impressive **567400** points this month!

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





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The Science Department have chosen our PHA Writer of the week this week...

Congratulations to...

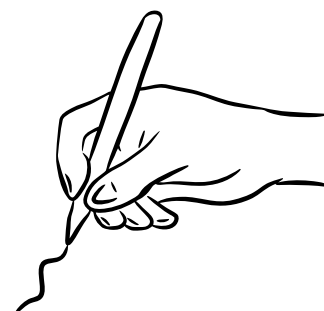
Amelia Jones Y8 - KS3 Writer of the Week

Harleen Kaur Y10 - KS4 Writer of the Week

Well done to you both!



Congratulations!





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WELCOME TO THE CAREERS CORNER!

As we reach the final week of the school year, this space in The Key keeps careers front and centre - celebrating progress and looking ahead to the future.

I'm Mr Lewis, your Careers Lead, and this week we spotlight Vehicle Technician and reflect on Walsall's labour market, continuing to build a strong careers culture where every student feels informed, confident and supported.

MINI CAREERS FACT OF THE WEEK!

MODERN VEHICLES ARE PACKED
WITH TECHNOLOGY -
TECHNICIANS NEED SKILLS IN
ELECTRONICS, SOFTWARE AND
HYBRID SYSTEMS.



CAREER OF THE WEEK - VEHICLE TECHNICIAN

What the job is:

Vehicle Technicians repair, service and diagnose problems in cars and other vehicles. They use tools and diagnostic technology to keep vehicles safe and running smoothly.

Skills needed:

Practical skills, problem-solving, teamwork, attention to detail, technical knowledge.

Salary range:

£20,000 - £35,000 (master technicians £40,000+).

Training routes:

- Motor Vehicle college courses
- Automotive apprenticeships (Level 2-3)
- Manufacturers' training programmes (Ford, BMW, etc.)
- Progression into MOT testing or specialist areas



INDUSTRY OF THE MONTH

OVERALL WALSHALL LABOUR MARKET SNAPSHOT

Why it matters in Walsall: 76% of working-age adults are employed, showing a strong local workforce across key industries.

Average salary: £26,215

Typical working hours: Around 37.1 hours per week.

Most vacancies in 2024:

Teaching assistants
Secondary school teachers
Care workers & home carers
Social care workers
Sales roles

Plant & machine operatives

Sectors employing the most people:

Retail & wholesale (19,000)
Health & social care (14,000)
Manufacturing (12,000)
Education (11,000)
Administration (10,000)
Transport & storage (9,000)

Other key facts: Unemployment sits at 4.6%. Around 11.6% of people (20,600 residents) are self-employed.



ASK MR LEWIS

What if I forget my login for Unifrog?

Ask me or your form tutor - we can reset it in seconds.

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

or find him at the back of the common room!

UPCOMING DATES!

Fri 17th July - Last day of school year

Thur 13th August - A Level Results Day

Thur 20th August - GCSE Results Day



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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



Pool Hayes
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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....



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





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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

