



Pool Hayes
Academy

THE KEY

17/07/26

PARENT & CARER NEWSLETTER



KEY DATES & EVENTS

INSET DAY -

Tuesday 1st September

Year 7 and Year 12 Students Return -

Wednesday 2nd September

All Students Return -

Thursday 3rd September

PHAntastival 2026 -

Sunday 20th September 12pm-4pm

Open Evening -

Tuesday 22nd September

MESSAGE FROM OUR HEAD OF ACADEMY

As we reach the end of another fantastic school year, we'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of our students, families and the wider #PHamily for your continued support throughout the year.

It has been a year full of achievement, memorable experiences and wonderful moments, and we couldn't be prouder of everything our students have accomplished.

We hope you all have a safe, relaxing and well-deserved summer break. Before you go, please take a moment to read Mrs Macey's end-of-year letter, which you can find on this link:

<https://poolhayes.atttrust.org.uk/end-of-year-letter-2026/>





17/07/26

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!

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.



Please ensure every student familiarises themselves with the acceptable PE Kit to bring with them from their first day back in September. You can find uniform expectations on the website and further along in this Newsletter

KEY CONTACTS

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

[Key Staff - Contact Details](#)



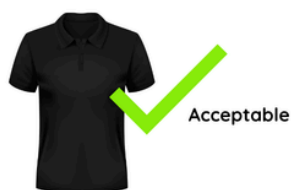


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THE KEY

17/07/26

PARENT & CARER NEWSLETTER



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

Uniform Expectations:

[Click here to view](#)



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THE KEY

PARENT & CARER NEWSLETTER

SAFEGAURDING



Pool Hayes
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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.



17/07/26

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.

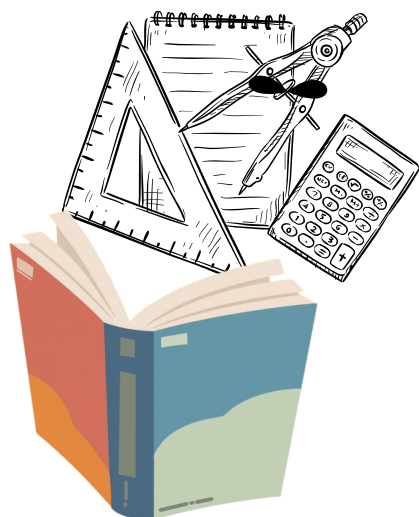
[Click here to go to Languagenut](#)

STUDENT SUCCESS

Our students have had a #phatastic week at school and have earnt lots of positive points. As a school they have achieved **1570693** positive points! The year group with the most points this week was Year 8 who managed to achieve **4332** points. **8C2** are this week's form leaders and together as a team they racked up **854**! 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 **4484** hours and read **3855** different books! In Maths we have answered **899596** questions! In Science we have answered **354195** questions! On Languagenut student have earned an impressive **638300** 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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17/07/26

PARENT & CARER NEWSLETTER

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

Congratulations to...

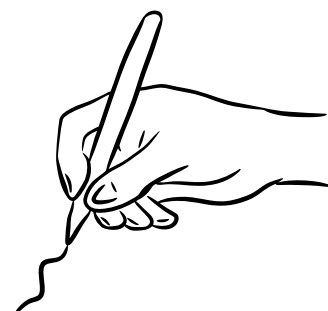
Jessica J Y8 - KS3 Writer of the Week

Jude V Y10 - KS4 Writer of the Week

Well done to you both!



Congratulations!





17/07/26

PARENT & CARER NEWSLETTER

Celebrating the Pride of PHA

Pool Hayes Academy proudly celebrated another fantastic year with our annual Pride of PHA Awards, recognising the students who have truly embodied our Academy values throughout the year.

We were delighted to welcome Manny Singh Kang as our guest presenter, who joined us in celebrating the achievements, resilience and personal growth of our young people. The evening recognised success across a range of areas, from academic achievement and attendance to leadership, determination and contribution to Academy life.

Events such as these provide a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the positive impact our students make every day and to celebrate the individuals who continue to make Pool Hayes Academy such a special place to learn. Congratulations to all of our nominees and award winners, we couldn't be prouder.



Rewarding Positive Choices

To celebrate the end of another successful academic year, students who earned the highest number of positive points were rewarded with an afternoon of fun and celebration.

The event featured a fantastic selection of inflatables, including giant slides, obstacle courses, Gladiator challenges and a rodeo bull, with students also enjoying complimentary ice creams and slush drinks from the on-site ice cream van. It was a well-deserved reward for those who have consistently demonstrated our Academy values through their positive choices, commitment and contribution to Academy life throughout the year.

The fun continued after the school day had ended, when staff were invited to tackle the inflatables themselves. From racing through the obstacle courses to testing their balance on the rodeo bull, there was plenty of laughter and friendly competition, making it a fantastic way to round off another successful year at Pool Hayes Academy.





17/07/26

PARENT & CARER NEWSLETTER

Belonging Day

Yesterday, our Academy came together to celebrate Belonging Day, embracing the rich diversity that makes our school community so special.

Students and staff proudly wore clothing that reflected their culture, heritage or identity, from traditional dress to national football shirts and uniforms from around the world. The day sparked meaningful conversations, celebrated different backgrounds and reinforced our commitment to creating a community where everyone feels valued, respected and that they truly belong.

It was a #PHAntastic way to end the academic year, reminding us that our differences are something to celebrate and that belonging sits at the heart of everything we do at Pool Hayes Academy.





17/07/26

PARENT & CARER NEWSLETTER

Dame Maggie's Inspiring Talk

On Friday July 10th, as part of Pool Hayes Academy's celebrations of this year's National Year of Reading, our students attended a truly inspirational talk with space scientist and BBC TV presenter, Dame Dr Maggie Aderin.

Through many positivity packed messages, Dame Maggie encouraged everyone to achieve their dreams and said she believes that 'Everyone can excel at something and that everyone has something to share'. Dame Maggie is dyslexic and struggled with reading and writing at school. To hear that despite her difficulties, she excelled in science classes and even went on to study Physics at university and gained a PhD in Mechanical Engineering, was an incredibly empowering message, especially for our neurodiverse students.

The event was part and parcel of the launch of Dame Maggie's new book 'Star Child', a memoir that encapsulates her childhood: the challenges of attending thirteen different schools; being a neurodiverse student and employee and overcoming prejudice.

Dame Aderin was a wonderful source of inspiration for our aspiring scientists and authors. All our students received a copy of 'Dr Maggie's Grand Tour of the Solar System' courtesy of Merchant Taylors' Foundation. Thanks also to our friends at Wolverhampton Grammar school for inviting us to the event, like us, they're always super impressed with our amazing students.





17/07/26

PARENT & CARER NEWSLETTER



WELCOME TO THE CAREERS CORNER!

As the summer holidays begin, this space in The Key keeps careers front and centre - celebrating achievements, inspiring ambition and looking ahead to the future.

Have a brilliant summer!

I'm Mr Lewis, your Careers Lead, and this week we spotlight Film/TV Production Assistant 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!

PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS HELP
KEEP FILM SETS RUNNING -
SUPPORTING EVERYTHING FROM
SCHEDULES TO EQUIPMENT AND
LOGISTICS.



CAREER OF THE WEEK - FILM/TV PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

What the job is:

Production Assistants support film and TV crews by organising schedules, setting up equipment, helping on set and keeping everything running smoothly during shoots.

Skills needed:

Organisation, teamwork, communication, time management, problem-solving.

Salary range:

£20,000 - £35,000 (higher with experience or specialised roles).

Training routes:

- College courses in Media, Film or Production
- Film/TV apprenticeships
- University degrees in Film Production or Media
- Entry through work experience, short films or volunteering



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

Do I need work experience for university courses?

Not always, but it helps - especially for healthcare or teaching.

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

or find him at the back of the common room!

UPCOMING DATES!

Fri 17th July - Last day of the 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



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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





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

