



Pool Hayes
Academy

THE KEY

26/06/26

PARENT & CARER NEWSLETTER



KEY DATES & EVENTS

Work Experience Week

Begins Monday 29th June

Wednesday 3rd July

Year 12 Parents Open Evening

Friday 3rd July

Leavers Prom

7th - 10th July

The Wizard of Oz School Show

MESSAGE FROM OUR HEAD OF ACADEMY

Written by Mrs L. Macey

This week, we have been incredibly proud of the resilience and positive attitude shown by our students during the hot weather. They have continued to work hard, stay focused and support one another despite the challenging conditions.

We were also delighted to welcome our new Year 6 pupils and their families for the induction days. The visits were a great success, and it was lovely to meet so many families as we begin preparing for a smooth and exciting transition into September.

As the weather returns to a more comfortable temperature next week, we require all students to be in full school uniform from Monday 29th June 2026, including ties and blazers.





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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](#)



ANNOUNCEMENT

As the weather returns to a more comfortable temperature next week, we require all students to be in full school uniform from Monday 29th June 2026, including ties and blazers.



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SAFEGAURDING



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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.



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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.

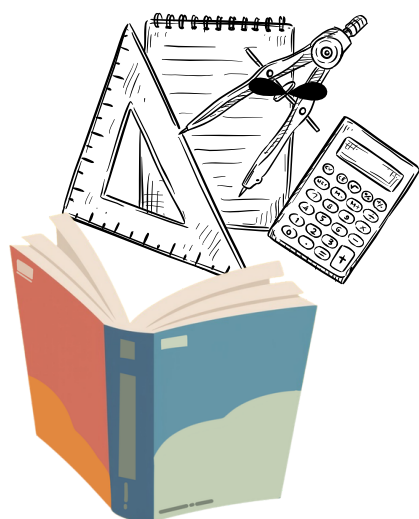
[Click here to go to Languagenut](#)

STUDENT SUCCESS

Our students have had a #phatastic week at school and have earnt lots of positive points. As a school they have achieved **1518449** positive points! The year group with the most points this week was **Year 8** who managed to achieve **4737** points. **9V1** are this week's form leaders and together as a team they racked up **852!** 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 **4343** hours and read **3767** different books! In Maths we have answered **883358** questions! In Science we have answered 340418 questions! On Languagenut student have earned an impressive **1031600** 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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PHA Writer of the Week!

We are excited to launch our Writer of the Week award, celebrating students who demonstrate creativity, effort and growth in their writing, and encouraging a culture where all learners take pride in developing their voice.

This week writer of the week is nominated by the History team:

Congratulations

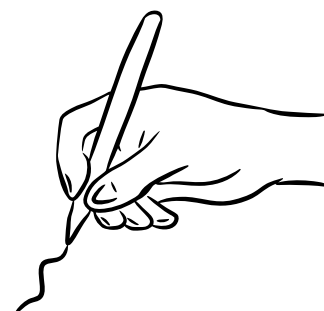
**Ishmeet K Y9 and
Keira R Y10** who
are our winners!

Photos and prizes to follow next week

We are very proud of you both!



Congratulations!





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WELCOME TO THE CAREERS CORNER!

As June draws to a close and the summer heat continues, this space in The Key keeps careers front and centre - sharing opportunities, pathways and ideas for the weeks ahead.

I'm Mr Lewis, your Careers Lead, and with Firefighter as this week's Career of the Week, we continue building a strong careers culture where every student feels informed, confident and supported.

MINI CAREERS FACT OF THE WEEK!

**FIREFIGHTERS DO MORE THAN
FIGHT FIRES - THEY RESPOND TO
ROAD TRAFFIC COLLISIONS,
FLOODS AND MEDICAL
EMERGENCIES.**



CAREER OF THE WEEK - FIREFIGHTER

What the job is:

Firefighters respond to emergencies including fires, road accidents and rescues. They protect communities, provide safety advice and work as part of a highly trained team.

Skills needed:

Teamwork, physical fitness, resilience, communication, decision-making.

Salary range:

£28,000 - £37,000 (crew manager roles £45,000+).

Training routes:

- Direct application to Fire & Rescue Service
- College Public Services courses
- Apprenticeship routes
- Extensive professional training once recruited



MYTHBUSTER



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

Myth: "Only people with connections get good jobs."

Reality: While networking helps, many employers focus on skills, effort, and potential - not who you know.

Myth: "If a job sounds boring, it probably is."

Reality: Many careers involve varied tasks, teamwork, and problem-solving that aren't obvious from the job title.



Myth: "You must follow the same career for life."

Reality: Most people change jobs or career direction multiple times, building new skills along the way.

Myth: "Careers advice is only for Year 11."

Reality: Career planning starts early and continues through secondary school, college, sixth form, and beyond.

ASK MR LEWIS

What's a "good" predicted grade for a competitive course?

It depends - aim to match the entry requirements.

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

or find him at the back of the common room!

UPCOMING DATES!

Mon 29 June - Fri 3 July - Year 10 Work
Experience Week - Pool Hayes Academy

Mon 29 June - Fri 3 July - Year 12 Work
Experience Week - Pool Hayes Academy

Thur 20th August - GCSE Results Day



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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....



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THE WIZARD of Oz YOUTH EDITION

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

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.





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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



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

