Pool Hayes Academy

THE KEY

06/11/2026

PARENT & CARER NEWSLETTER



KEY DATES & EVENTS

PHA Remembrance Service:
Wednesday 11th November

KS4 & KS5 Art Trip to Oxford:
Thursday 12th November

Year 11 Christmas Carol Theatre Trip:
Tuesday 17th November

Year 11 and Year 13 Mock Exams:
Monday 16th - Thursday 26th November

Staff Training Day (Academy closed to students):
Friday 27th November

MESSAGE FROM OUR HEAD OF ACADEMY

Written by Mrs L. Macey

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our students, staff and families for what has been a PHAntastic start to the new term. Students have returned with excellent attitudes to learning, and it has been wonderful to see so much positive engagement across the Academy.

We are also delighted to have officially opened our new TFTF Transform provision. This exciting new facility will provide further opportunities to support and develop our young people, and we look forward to seeing the positive impact it will have on our Academy community.

Over the half-term break, a number of our talented sporting students had the incredible opportunity to travel to Spain. During the trip, they participated in specialist coaching sessions in both netball and football, developing their skills while representing the Academy with pride. Students also enjoyed a visit to the iconic Nou Camp, creating memories that will last a lifetime.

As we approach Remembrance Sunday, I would like to encourage as many of our students as possible to attend the parade organised by the Short Heath British Legion, Lest We Forget group. It would be wonderful to see our young people representing both the Academy and their uniformed organisations, demonstrating the respect and gratitude that this important occasion deserves.

Remembrance provides us with an opportunity to reflect on the sacrifices made by so many in service of our country and to honour their memory.

We will remember them.

I would also like to wish all our students, families and staff celebrating Diwali this Sunday a joyful day filled with light, happiness and time with loved ones.

Thank you for your continued support.

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PSHE FORM TIME TOPIC

Each week in form time, students take part in a PSHE discussion designed to support their wellbeing, personal development, and understanding of life beyond the classroom. This week, students explored the **2021 Census** and what it tells us about modern Britain, considering why collecting information about people and communities is important.

Students learned about the purpose of the Census, which takes place every 10 years, and the types of information it collects, including age, employment, housing, ethnicity and religion. They explored how the 2021 Census showed changes in Britain's population and diversity, with 59.6 million people recorded across England and Wales and a 97% response rate.

The session encouraged students to consider how Census information is used by the government, local councils, businesses and charities to understand the needs of communities and plan important services. Through discussion, students reflected on how this information can influence everyday life, including the provision of schools, hospitals, housing, roads and public transport. It reinforced the importance of understanding our communities and recognising how data can help shape decisions about the future.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM

We are delighted to announce the appointment of our new Head Boys and Head Girls across each year group. We are incredibly proud of all those selected and look forward to seeing them embrace their leadership roles, represent our academy and inspire their fellow students throughout the year. Congratulations to everyone!

Year 7 = Jenson M & Lacie-Mae J

Year 8 = Mia P & Jack H

Year 9 = Udayveer S & Sophie A

Year 10 = Joel D & Payton T

Year 11 = Raegan H



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CELEBRATING DIA DE LOS MUERTOS

This week, our Spanish Department brought Mexican culture to life as students celebrated Día de los Muertos through a range of exciting, educational and engaging activities.

Throughout lessons, students explored the traditions and significance of this important Mexican festival, learning how it celebrates the lives of loved ones and the importance of family, remembrance and cultural heritage. As part of their learning, students developed their Spanish vocabulary and language structures while discovering authentic customs, foods and symbols associated with the celebration.

Lessons were packed with interactive activities, cultural challenges and collaborative games that encouraged students to practise their Spanish in meaningful and memorable ways. At lunchtime, the celebrations continued with great enthusiasm as students took part in fun piñata games, bringing the festive spirit of Mexico into our academy community.







These experiences not only enhanced students' language learning but also encouraged curiosity, respect and appreciation for different cultures. It was wonderful to see so many students embracing the opportunity to learn about traditions from around the world while building their confidence in Spanish.

A huge thank you to the Spanish Department for creating such a vibrant and enriching experience for our students. ¡Qué fantástico!

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SHREWSBURY PRISON TRIP

Our Criminology, Psychology and Sociology Sixth Form students recently took part in an educational visit to Shrewsbury Prison, gaining a fascinating insight into the criminal justice system and the realities of prison life.

During the tour, students explored the historic prison, learned about the experiences of former inmates and prison staff, and examined how crime, punishment and rehabilitation have evolved over time. The visit brought many of the topics studied in lessons to life, helping students make valuable links between theory and real-world practice.

The trip was both engaging and thought-provoking, providing students with memorable learning experiences that will support their studies across all three subjects. We are incredibly proud of the students for their excellent behaviour and enthusiastic participation throughout the day.







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YEAR 11 UNLOCKING YOUR POTENTIAL EVENING

On Tuesday 3rd November, Year 11 students along with their parents and carers were invited to attend Pool Hayes Academy's Unlocking Your Potential Evening, an event designed to provide key information about the forthcoming academic year and the expectations of Year 11.

During the evening, guidance was shared on GCSE preparation, examination requirements, and the range of support available to students. Staff also outlined the targeted interventions that will be implemented throughout the year, including academic mentoring, revision programmes, after-school sessions, and subject-specific support, to ensure every student is equipped to achieve their full potential and succeed in their examinations.

Following the event, Year 11 students, parents and carers were invited to our PHA Sixth Open Evening to find out what our newly refurbished sixth form has to offer and explore how students could continue their education at Pool Hayes Academy after their GCSEs.

A huge thank you to all parents, carers and students that attended the evening.

PHA SIXTH OPEN EVENING

We were delighted to welcome such a PHAntastic turnout at our PHA Sixth Form Open Evening on Tuesday.

Students had the opportunity to explore the wide range of post-16 pathways and courses available to them, helping them to consider their next steps with confidence.

Our subject teachers were on hand to share valuable insights into their courses, answer questions, and provide guidance, enabling students to make informed choices about their future studies.

Thank you to everyone that attended.







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SPORT FIXTURES & RESULTS

Results

There were no games played this week.

Upcoming Fixtures

Monday 9th November - Year 11 boys football Team play in the West Midlands Cup v Sandwell

Tuesday 10th November - Year 10 boys football play in the 7 a side Walsall Tournament

Tuesday 10th November - Year 7 & 8 girls football team play at Joseph Leckie

Wednesday 11th November - Year 7 girls netball team play in the Central Walsall Tournament

Wednesday 11th November - Year 11 boys football team play in the Walsall Cup at St Thomas Moore







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POWER UP NOTIFICATIONS

A new Sparx Power Up will be available from:

- Maths = Monday at 8am - Sunday 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 be set **every Monday.**

Click here to go to Seneca

Languagenut is set once a week.

Click here to go to Languagenut

STUDENT SUCCESS

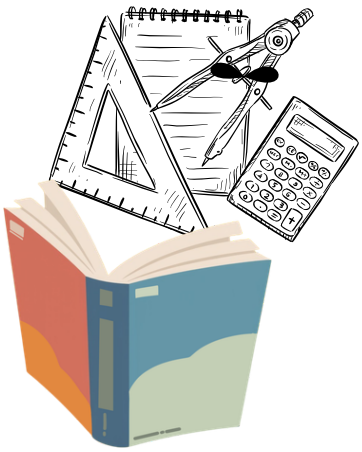
Our students have had a #PHAntastic week and have earnt lots of positive points. As an academy they have achieved **375,759 positive points!** The year group with the most points this week was **Year 11** who managed to achieve **9,399 points**. **11P1** are this week's form leaders and together as a team they racked up **2,187!** 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 **891 hours** and read **606 different books!** In Maths we have answered **185,239 questions!** In Science we have answered **88,358 questions!**

On Languagenut student have earned an impressive **2,777,000 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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WELCOME TO THE CAREERS CORNER!

As we return from the autumn half term, Careers @ PHA is here to share opportunities, raise aspirations and help you explore the many possibilities your future could hold.
I'm Mr Lewis, your Careers Lead, and this week we spotlight IT Support Technician as our Career of the Week and tackle common misconceptions in Careers Mythbusters, helping every student feel informed, confident and supported.

MINI CAREERS FACT OF THE WEEK!

IT SUPPORT TECHNICIANS DO MORE THAN FIX COMPUTERS – THEY PROTECT NETWORKS, SOLVE TECHNICAL PROBLEMS AND KEEP BUSINESSES RUNNING.

CAREER OF THE WEEK – IT SUPPORT TECHNICIAN

What the job is:
IT Support Technicians solve computer, network and software problems and keep organisations' technology working.

Skills needed:
Problem-solving, communication, patience, IT knowledge, logical thinking.

Salary range:
£23,000 - £35,000 (specialist roles £45,000+).

Training routes:

- College Computing/IT courses
- Digital Support apprenticeships
- Digital T Levels
- Industry qualifications and certifications

MYTHBUSTER

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

Myth: ***"All apprenticeships are for school leavers."***
Reality: Apprenticeships are available to people aged 16 and over, including adults looking to retrain, develop new skills, or change careers.

Myth: ***"You need to be good at maths to work in technology.***
"Reality: Some tech careers require strong maths skills, but others focus more on creativity, communication, problem-solving, and digital skills.



Myth: ***"A university degree guarantees you a job."***
Reality: A degree can open doors, but employers also value experience, practical skills, and attitude. Graduates still need to compete for jobs.

Myth: ***"Level 2 qualifications are the same as A-levels."***
Reality: Level 2 qualifications are broadly equivalent to GCSEs at grades 4–9. A-levels are Level 3 qualifications, representing the next stage of study.

ASK MR LEWIS

What if the job I want doesn't exist in ten years?
Jobs change all the time! Focus on building transferable skills like communication, creativity and problem-solving.
Submit your questions to Mr Lewis - michael.lewis@attrust.org.uk
or find him at the back of the library!

UPCOMING DATES!

Sat 14th Nov - City of Wolverhampton College Open Day

Wed 25th Nov - Walsall College Open Day

Sat 28th Nov - University of Wolverhampton Open Day

CAREERS @ PHA

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KEY CONTACTS

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

Key Staff - Contact Details

LATEST LETTERS

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

Letters - Home Page

SAFEGUARDING

Pool Hayes Academy

HELPLINE CONTACTS FOR STUDENTS

Academy Transformation Trust

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)







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SPORT EXTRA-CURRICULAR

TUESDAY
Badminton & Fitness
All years - Except Fitness Suite (Year 9+ only)

WEDNESDAY
Netball & Boys Football
All year groups

THURSDAY
Basketball & Girls Football
All year groups

Fixtures will be planned along with team selection and then posted on the PE Office door - These can fall on a variety of evenings. Permisson slip is needed from parents/guardians before participation. These can be collected from a staff member of the PE Department

LUNCHTIME CLUBS

Monday – Thursday

BADMINTON
Sports Hall

BASKETBALL
Upstairs Gym

- You must bring trainers to participate.
- Blazer and tie need to be taken off and belongings put neatly in the corner of sport room.
- Eat lunch BEOFRE attending – No food allowed in sport areas.
- DO NOT enter sport areas until a member of staff is present.

Pool Hayes Academy | ENRICHMENT TIMETABLE

After School

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
(No after school activities)	Show Rehearsals (After School) Library (After School) Badminton Fitness Club	Netball Boys Football Performing Arts Industry Training Yr11-13 Library (After School)	Basketball Girls Football Choir MT1 - Room K53 - 3.30 - 4.20 Library (After School) Dance Club (Year 9, 10 & 11 - After School)	Show Rehearsals 2.35 - 4.00pm

Lunchtime

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Drama Ambassador Meeting Library	Basketball Badminton Show Rehearsals (After School)	Basketball Badminton Library	Basketball Dance Club (Year 7 & 8 - Lunchtime) Badminton Library	Library Chess Club (Lunchtime) Instrumental Club - Room 51

Unlocking Your Potential. Empowering Through Success.

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