Pool Hayes Academy

THE KEY

20/11/2026

PARENT & CARER NEWSLETTER

MESSAGE FROM OUR HEAD OF ACADEMY

Written by Mrs L. Macey

This week has been a PHAntastic one at Pool Hayes Academy, with opportunities for our students to learn, grow and celebrate together both inside and outside the classroom.

A particular highlight has been Anti-Bullying Week. We began the week by encouraging students and staff to wear odd socks on Monday, a simple but powerful way of celebrating individuality and reminding us all that our differences make us unique. Throughout the week, students have engaged in activities and discussions focused on kindness, respect and the importance of creating a community where everyone feels valued and supported. The week will conclude with our much-anticipated Anti-Bullying Disco at lunchtime today, giving students a chance to come together, have fun and celebrate the positive relationships that make our school such a special place.

Our students have also enjoyed a range of enriching educational experiences this week. On Tuesday, a group of Year 11 students travelled to Shrewsbury to watch A Christmas Carol, bringing to life a text many are studying and providing valuable insight into the themes, characters and historical context of the novel. The students represented the academy exceptionally well and thoroughly enjoyed the performance.

On Wednesday, our Year 12 and 13 students visited Keele University, where they were able to explore higher education opportunities, gain insight into university life and begin thinking about their next steps beyond sixth form. Experiences such as these are invaluable in helping our young people make informed decisions about their futures.

KEY DATES & EVENTS

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

Reflexions Wellbeing Parents Session:
Thursday 26th November 4:40-5:30pm

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

Spanish Speaking Mocks:
Week commencing Monday 30th November

Year 7 & 8 EBACC Assessments:
Monday 30th November - Friday 11th December

WWFC Careers Trip:
Tuesday 1st December

Drama Play Nights - SIX:
Thursday 3rd & Friday 4th December

The week continued on Thursday with a visit from the British Army for our Year 12 students. The session provided an excellent opportunity to learn more about the diverse career pathways available within the Armed Forces, as well as the skills, leadership qualities and experiences that military service can offer.

As we move towards the end of term, it is wonderful to see so many students embracing new experiences, supporting one another and taking full advantage of the opportunities available to them.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We wish all our families a restful weekend and look forward to another exciting week ahead.

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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 the world around them. This week, students explored **the impact of loneliness**, considering what loneliness means, why people might experience it and how it can affect young people.

Students learned that loneliness is the feeling of being alone or disconnected from others, even when surrounded by people. They explored research from the Office for National Statistics, which found that 11.3% of children aged 10–15 often felt lonely, rising to 14% among 10–12-year-olds. The discussion highlighted some of the reasons why young people might experience loneliness, including starting a new school, moving house, friendship difficulties or feeling different from others.

The session encouraged students to think about how small actions can help people feel more connected and included. Through discussion, students considered practical ways to support someone who might be feeling lonely, such as checking in with friends, including others in conversations, joining activities and speaking to a trusted adult. It reinforced the message that loneliness is something anyone can experience, that there is nothing to be ashamed of and that everyone deserves to feel connected, valued and included.

REFLEXIONS WORKSHOP

We are delighted to welcome the Walsall Reflexions Mental Health Support Team on Thursday 26th November, from 4.30pm to 5.30pm, for a friendly and supportive parenting workshop.

The session will provide parents and carers with practical advice, useful parenting strategies and an opportunity to discuss the everyday challenges of family life in a welcoming environment. Please note that this workshop is exclusively for parents and carers.

To register your attendance, Sign up here.



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ANTI-BULLYING WEEK - BREAK THE SILENCE

This week at Pool Hayes, we have been proudly celebrating **Anti-Bullying Week**, with a range of fun, creative and meaningful activities designed to promote kindness, respect and the importance of celebrating what makes us all unique.

We kicked off the week on Monday with **'Odd Socks Day',** where staff and students wore their brightest and most colourful odd socks to celebrate our differences and remind everyone that being unique is something to be proud of!

Throughout the week, our Year 7, 8 and 9 students have been getting creative in their Art lessons, designing **kindness-themed bookmarks** that reflect what kindness means to them.

We have also been spreading a little extra kindness around school with our **Kindness Raffle!** Staff have been rewarding students with raffle tickets for showing acts of kindness, going out of their way to help others or simply doing something thoughtful. All entries will be placed into a prize draw, with a lucky group of students winning hot chocolate and cake with the Headteacher – what a lovely reward!

Another heart-warming activity has been asking students to share **'Who Helped You?'** by writing about someone who has made a positive difference in their lives and how this made them feel. We have received some wonderful and thoughtful entries recognising family members, friends and members of staff. These will soon become a special display around school to celebrate the positive impact people have on one another.

Our Anti-Bullying Poster Competition has also been running throughout the week, giving students the opportunity to design a new poster to help spread our message of kindness and respect across the school. The winning design will be displayed around school, and its creator will receive a Love2shop voucher!

To round off our celebrations, we will be hosting a **Friday lunchtime disco**, bringing everyone together to celebrate our very own PHAntastic PHAmily!

It has been fantastic to see so many students and staff getting involved, spreading positivity and showing that even the smallest acts of kindness can make a big difference.

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ANTI-BULLYING WEEK IN PICTURES

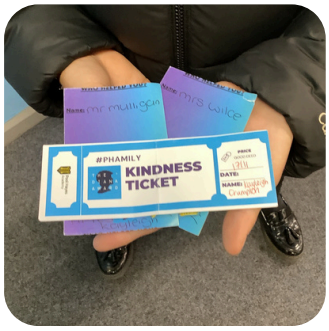




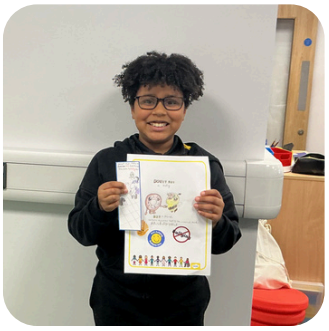








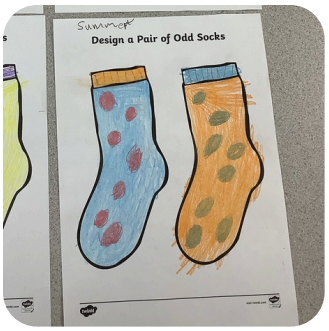




















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STUDENT SHOUT OUT

A special shout-out to our Year 11 Spanish students, who received PHAntastic feedback from our exam invigilators this week.

The invigilators praised students for their outstanding conduct, respect and patience when transitioning from their listening exams in classrooms to their reading exam in the hall.

Our students demonstrated our academy values of Respect and Excellence throughout, and we are incredibly proud of them all. Well done, Year 11!

EBACC ASSESSMENTS

Our Year 7 and 8 EBacc assessments will begin on Monday 30th November and will be completed by Friday 11th December.

The assessments will take place during normal lessons and are designed to help us assess students' understanding of the powerful knowledge they have acquired throughout the term, celebrating their progress and identifying areas where further support may be needed.

SIX: TEEN EDITION

We are excited to announce that this year's Christmas production will be the hit musical SIX: Teen Edition.

Our talented students will take to the stage to bring the stories of Henry VIII's six wives to life through powerful vocals, energetic performances and catchy songs.

Performances will take place on Thursday 3rd and Friday 4th December at 6pm in the Main Hall.

Tickets are priced at £5 per person and are available from the Drama Office during break and lunchtime. Please see Mr Monksfield, Miss Hunt or Miss Mason to purchase yours.

Come along and support our talented students for what promises to be a PHAntastic evening of musical entertainment!



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OXFORD ART TRIP

On Thursday 12th November our PHAntastic Year 11, Year 12 and Year 13 Art students went on an inspirational trip to Oxford. Students had the opportunity to see a huge range of natural and man-made objects as well as some beautiful architecture in both the Museum of Natural History and the Pitt Rivers Museum.

They were able to see, photograph and draw from first hand objects they would never normally have access to which will make a wonderful addition to their GCSE and A-Level work.

The students were a credit to themselves and the academy. They were respectful to the museum staff and to the displays. It was a hugely successful trip and one the Art department will definitely do again. , created by people from different times and places.

Mrs Ryder, Miss Dace, Mrs Degg, Mr Sewell and Mr Lewis were proud of how the students responded to the experience and we are excited to see the fantastic creations they make in the classroom in response to their sketches and photographs.






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SPORT FIXTURES & RESULTS

Results

There were no fixtures last week.

Upcoming Fixtures

Monday 23rd November - Year 11 boys football team play at home v Aldirdge in the West Midlands Cup.

Monday 23rd November - Year 9 boys basketball team have a tournament at Walsall Academy.

Monday 23rd November - Year 7 & 8 girls football team have a tournament at Wolves.

Thursday 26th November - Year 10 boys football team play in the Walsall Cup at Willenhall E-ACT.

SPORTING A NEW LOOK!

Our students had great fun modelling our brand-new sports kit, generously sponsored by **AB Wooden Gates & Garage Doors.**

Thanks to their support, we have been able to provide our football teams with 30 new kits! As you can see from the photographs, our students look incredibly smart and are proud to represent Pool Hayes Academy.

We would like to extend a huge thank you to **AB Wooden Gates & Garage Doors** for their generosity and for supporting sporting opportunities within our academy. We look forward to seeing our students wearing their new kits in upcoming fixtures!









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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

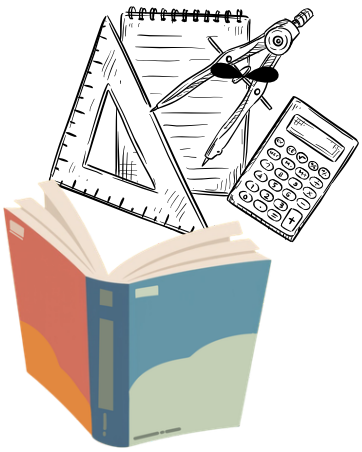
Our students have had a #PHAntastic week and have earnt lots of positive points. As an academy they have achieved **468,601 positive points!** The year group with the most points this week was **Year 7** who managed to achieve **12,183 points**. **7P2** are this week's form leaders and together as a team they racked up **2,191!** 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 **1,228 hours** and read **873 different books!** In Maths we have answered **238,319 questions!** In Science we have answered **114,217 questions!**

On Languagenut student have earned an impressive **3,979,900 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 move further into November, Careers @ PHA continues to share opportunities, raise aspirations and encourage you to explore the many possibilities your future could hold.
I'm Mr Lewis, your Careers Lead, and this week we spotlight Robotics Engineer as our Career of the Week and explore the upcoming V Levels in Routes Reveal, helping every student feel informed, confident and supported.

MINI CAREERS FACT OF THE WEEK!

ROBOTICS ENGINEERS DESIGN MORE THAN FACTORY ROBOTS – THEY DEVELOP MACHINES FOR HOSPITALS, SPACE EXPLORATION AND RESCUE MISSIONS.

CAREER OF THE WEEK – ROBOTICS ENGINEER

What the job is:
Robotics Engineers design, build and programme robots used in factories, healthcare and other industries.

Skills needed:
Coding, maths, creativity, engineering, problem-solving.

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

Training routes:

- College Engineering or Computing courses
- Engineering and Manufacturing T Level
- Robotics or Mechatronics degree apprenticeships
- University degrees in Robotics or Engineering

Routes Reveal

Understanding Your Pathways: This Week V-LEVELS

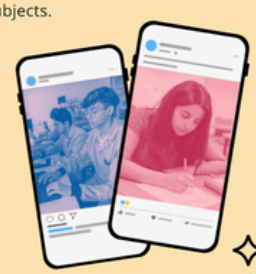
What are V-Levels? - V Levels are new vocational qualifications that combine practical learning with career-focused knowledge. They are designed to help students explore an industry while developing skills linked to real jobs.

Who are they for?
Students who enjoy applied learning, want to keep their options open, and would like to combine vocational and academic subjects.

Examples of the first V Levels available:

- Digital
- Education & Early Years
- Finance & Accounting
- More subjects planned in the future

Where can they lead?
University, apprenticeships, degree apprenticeships, higher-level study, or employment in a range of career sectors.



ASK MR LEWIS

Do employers care about what I post on social media?
Sometimes! Employers may look at public profiles, so think carefully about what your online presence says about you.
Submit your questions to Mr Lewis - michael.lewis@attrust.org.uk
or find him at the back of the library!

UPCOMING DATES!

Sat 21st Nov - Birmingham City University 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 KS3 Dungeons and Dragons (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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