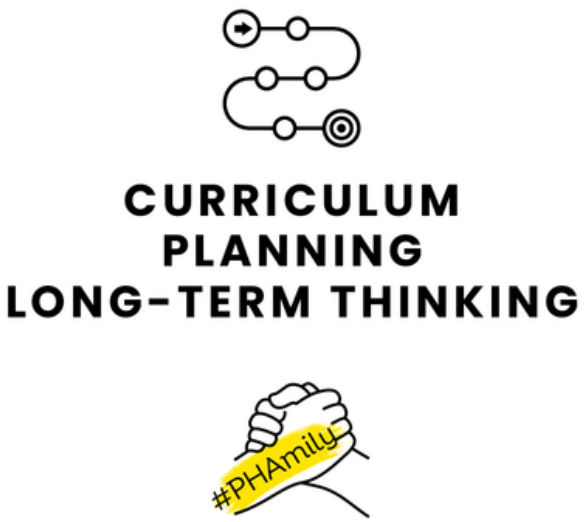
Pool Hayes Academy

THE KEY

27/11/2026

PARENT & CARER NEWSLETTER



KEY DATES & EVENTS

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

Christmas Dinner & Jumper Day
Wednesday 9th December

Christmas Concert
Wednesday 9th December - 6:30pm

MESSAGE FROM OUR HEAD OF ACADEMY

Written by Mrs L. Macey

As we move towards the festive season, there is a great deal happening across the academy and plenty for our community to look forward to over the coming weeks.

Our Year 11 and Year 13 mock examinations have now concluded. I would like to congratulate all students for their commitment, resilience and hard work throughout the examination period. Staff will now begin the process of marking papers and analysing outcomes. Examination results, along with updated progress information and predicted grades, will be shared with students and families in due course.

Today is a staff training day, providing colleagues with valuable opportunities to further develop our provision. Our focus is on strengthening a sense of belonging for every member of our academy community, alongside curriculum planning to ensure we continue to deliver the highest quality education and opportunities for our students.

There are also a number of exciting events coming up for parents and carers to enjoy. Next week we are delighted to present Six: The Musical, showcasing the incredible talents of our students. This will be followed by our annual Christmas Concert the week after, before we round off the term with our Christmas Art Exhibition in the final week of term. We would be delighted to welcome as many families as possible to celebrate the creativity, talent and achievements of our young people.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We look forward to sharing these special events with you over the coming weeks.

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STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

We are incredibly proud to celebrate the outstanding sporting achievements of our Year 10 student, Keeley, who recently competed at the ICO 4 Nations Championships in Ireland.

Keeley achieved phenomenal success at the championships, returning home with an impressive two gold medals and one silver medal! 🥇🥇🥈

Competing at an international level is a remarkable achievement, and Keeley's success is a testament to her hard work, dedication, determination and commitment to her sport.

It is wonderful to celebrate the talents and achievements of our students both inside and outside the academy, and Keeley is an inspirational role model for our PHAmily.

Congratulations, Keeley, on your PHAntastic achievement! We are incredibly proud of you and look forward to hearing about your future successes.







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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 **being comfortable in your own company**, considering what it means to enjoy spending time alone and why developing confidence in being by yourself is an important life skill.

Students learned that spending time alone is not the same as feeling lonely. They explored research from the Office for National Statistics, which found that children can sometimes enjoy time alone more than time spent with others, particularly when being alone is a choice. The discussion highlighted the benefits of spending time independently, including having opportunities to relax, reflect, explore personal interests and develop a greater sense of independence. Students also considered the difference between choosing to be alone and feeling isolated, recognising that 11.3% of children aged 10–15 often feel lonely.

The session encouraged students to reflect on activities they enjoy doing independently, such as reading, listening to music, drawing, playing games or exercising. Students considered how to find a healthy balance between enjoying their own company and maintaining positive relationships with friends and family. It reinforced the message that enjoying time alone does not mean avoiding others, and that it is possible to value friendships while also feeling confident, independent and happy in your own company.

KEELE UNIVERSITY VISIT

Our PHA Sixth students recently enjoyed an informative and inspiring visit to Keele University, providing a PHAntastic opportunity to experience university life and explore future opportunities.

Students heard from Student Ambassadors who shared their first-hand experiences, offering valuable advice on the application process, student finance and academic opportunities, helping students to consider their own future aspirations.

The visit also included a guided campus tour, allowing students to explore the facilities and gain an insight into life as a university student.

Experiences such as these play an important role in raising aspirations, building confidence and supporting students to make informed decisions about their future education and career pathways.



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PHA SIXTH ARMY VISIT

PHA Sixth recently enjoyed a PHAntastic morning working with representatives from the Army, gaining valuable insight into the diverse range of career opportunities available within the Armed Forces.

The morning began with an informative careers presentation, during which students explored different career pathways, the skills and qualities required for various roles, and the opportunities for personal and professional development.

Following the presentation, students took part in a series of engaging team-building activities and practical challenges led by the soldiers. These activities encouraged students to think creatively, communicate effectively, demonstrate leadership and work collaboratively to overcome challenges.

It was a fantastic opportunity for our students to step outside their comfort zones, build resilience and develop transferable skills that will benefit them in their future education, employment and everyday lives.

We would like to thank the Army representatives for delivering such an engaging and inspiring morning and for supporting our students as they explore their future career aspirations.



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CHRISTMAS CAROL ON STAGE

Our English department recently took 46 Year 11 students to Theatre Severn in Shrewsbury to watch a live performance of A Christmas Carol by the Dickens Theatre Company.

This PHAntastic learning opportunity allowed students to experience Charles Dickens' classic novella brought to life on stage, consolidating their understanding of the plot, key themes and characterisation in preparation for their GCSE English Literature examinations.

Following the performance, students took part in a live question-and-answer session with the actors, providing them with the opportunity to explore the text in greater depth, consider different interpretations of characters and gain a further insight into Dickens' intentions.

Experiencing literature beyond the classroom is an invaluable way to enrich students' understanding and appreciation of the texts they study. It was a wonderful opportunity to combine revision with an engaging and memorable theatre experience.



SIX: TEEN EDITION

One week to go until SIX: Teen Edition! Have you got your tickets yet?

Our talented students are getting ready to take to the stage for this year's Christmas production. Join us as Henry VIII's six wives take the mic and tell their side of the story in a show packed with powerful vocals, energetic performances and catchy songs! 🎤

Thursday 3rd and Friday 4th December at 6pm in the Main Hall.

Tickets £5 per person and are available from the Drama Office at break and lunchtime. See Mr Monksfield, Miss Hunt or Miss Mason to get yours.

Come along, cheer on our students and enjoy a PHAntastic evening of musical theatre!



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BRINGING CELL DIVISION TO LIFE!

This week, our Year 9 students explored the fascinating process of **mitosis** by using plasticine models to represent the stages of cell division. As they followed their teacher's expert modelling, students learned how cells prepare to divide during **interphase**, how genetic material is copied, and how one cell eventually becomes two identical daughter cells. They also explored **cytokinesis**, the final stage where the cell splits into two separate cells.

Using hands-on modelling helped students visualise this complex biological process, deepening their understanding of how organisms grow, repair damaged tissues and replace old cells. It was fantastic to see such high levels of engagement, enthusiasm and scientific thinking throughout the lesson.



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SPORT FIXTURES & RESULTS

Results

Monday 23rd November - Year 11 boys football team lost 5-4 at home v Aldirdge in the West Midlands Cup.

Monday 23rd November - Year 9 boys basketball team represented the academy well, but lost all three of their games at a tournament at Walsall Academy.

Monday 23rd November - Year 7 & 8 girls football team finished third in their tournament at Wolves.

Thursday 26th November - Year 10 boys football team lost 5-4 on penalties in the Walsall Cup at Willenhall E-ACT.

Upcoming Fixtures

Friday 4th December - Girls under 15's Cricket Tournament all day at Aldersely.



SQUAD GIRLS PROGRAMME

Pool Hayes Academy is proud to be working in partnership with Birmingham County FA to launch the exciting Squad Girls Programme, creating more opportunities for girls to get involved in football and develop valuable skills both on and off the pitch.

The programme aims to build confidence, encourage participation, develop teamwork and nurture leadership qualities in a positive and supportive environment. Whether students already enjoy football or are looking to try something completely new, the programme offers something for everyone, with potential opportunities to complete football officiating courses in the future.

Sessions will take place throughout the academic year, during lunchtimes and after school, providing students with opportunities to make new friendships, develop their abilities and challenge themselves.

We are delighted to be part of this exciting partnership and look forward to empowering our students, inspiring future leaders and making a positive difference to girls' participation in sport within our academy community.

Watch this space for more information!

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ANTI-BULLYING WEEK

Last Friday, students enjoyed a PHAntastic Celebration Disco at lunchtime to mark the end of Anti-Bullying Week. With Miss Agha showcasing her DJ skills and Mrs Macey leading the way on the dance floor, it was a wonderful and fun-filled way to round off the week!

On Thursday this week, the winners of our Kindness Raffle were treated to delicious hot chocolate and cake with Mrs Macey. Students received raffle tickets in recognition of the many acts of kindness they demonstrated around the Academy during Anti-Bullying Week. We were delighted by the fantastic number of entries received, and every student who earned a ticket should feel incredibly proud of their contribution.

Our SRP students also enjoyed this special treat in recognition of their enthusiastic participation in a range of Anti-Bullying Week activities. These included designing thoughtful bookmarks and posters, as well as creating colourful odd-sock displays to celebrate what makes us all unique.

We are also delighted to announce that, thanks to everyone's generosity and support on Odd Socks Day, we raised an amazing £52, which will be donated to the Anti-Bullying Alliance.

A huge thank you to all our students, staff and families who supported the week and got involved in the activities. It was wonderful to see so many positive acts of kindness, creativity and community spirit across the Academy. Together as a PHAmily, we have helped to reinforce the importance of kindness, respect and celebrating our differences!





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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

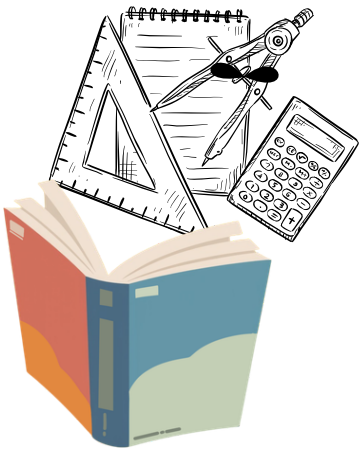
Our students have had a #PHAntastic week and have earnt lots of positive points. As an academy they have achieved **502,872 positive points!** The year group with the most points this week was **Year 7** who managed to achieve **11,100 points**. **7P2** are this week's form leaders and together as a team they racked up **1,878!** 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 **1,366 hours** and read **979 different books!** In Maths we have answered **261,067 questions!** In Science we have answered **123,792 questions!**

On Languagenut student have earned an impressive **4,122,300 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 November draws to a close, Careers @ PHA continues to share opportunities, raise aspirations and help you discover the different pathways your future could take.
I'm Mr Lewis, your Careers Lead, and this week we spotlight Locksmith as our Career of the Week and explore Hospitality as our Industry of the Month, helping every student feel informed, confident and supported.

MINI CAREERS FACT OF THE WEEK!

MODERN LOCKSMITHS WORK WITH ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY – INCLUDING ELECTRONIC LOCKS, SMART SECURITY SYSTEMS AND KEYLESS ENTRY.

CAREER OF THE WEEK – LOCKSMITH

What the job is:
Locksmiths install, repair and open locks, helping keep homes, businesses and vehicles secure.

Skills needed:
Practical skills, problem-solving, patience, accuracy, customer service.

Salary range:
£22,000 - £38,000 (experienced/self-employed locksmiths may earn more).

Training routes:
- Specialist locksmith training courses
- Apprenticeships in related engineering/security trades
- On-the-job training
- Additional qualifications in electronic security systems

INDUSTRY OF THE MONTH

HOSPITALITY

Why it matters in Walsall: Hospitality employs 5,000 people locally and supports restaurants, cafés, hotels and events.
Average salary: £15,031
Typical working hours: Around 24.5 hours per week (many part-time opportunities).
Most in-demand jobs:
- Kitchen and catering assistants
- Chefs and cooks
- Bar staff, waiters and waitresses
- Restaurant & café managers

Most requested skills:
Customer service, communication, cooking, food safety, organisation, management, leadership.
Where the jobs are:
Restaurants and mobile food services (2,500), beverage services (1,500), hotels (500), event catering (500).
Why consider it: Great for building confidence, teamwork, customer service skills and real-world experience - ideal for part-time work while studying.

ASK MR LEWIS

Do employers care about attendance at school?
Yes! Good attendance shows reliability and commitment - two qualities employers really value.
Submit your questions to Mr Lewis - michael.lewis@attrust.org.uk
or find him at the back of the library!

UPCOMING DATES!

Thur 3rd Dec - Royal Birmingham Conservatoire Open Event

Tue 8th Dec - University of Wolverhampton UCAS Personal Statement Webinar

Sat 16th Jan - Walsall College 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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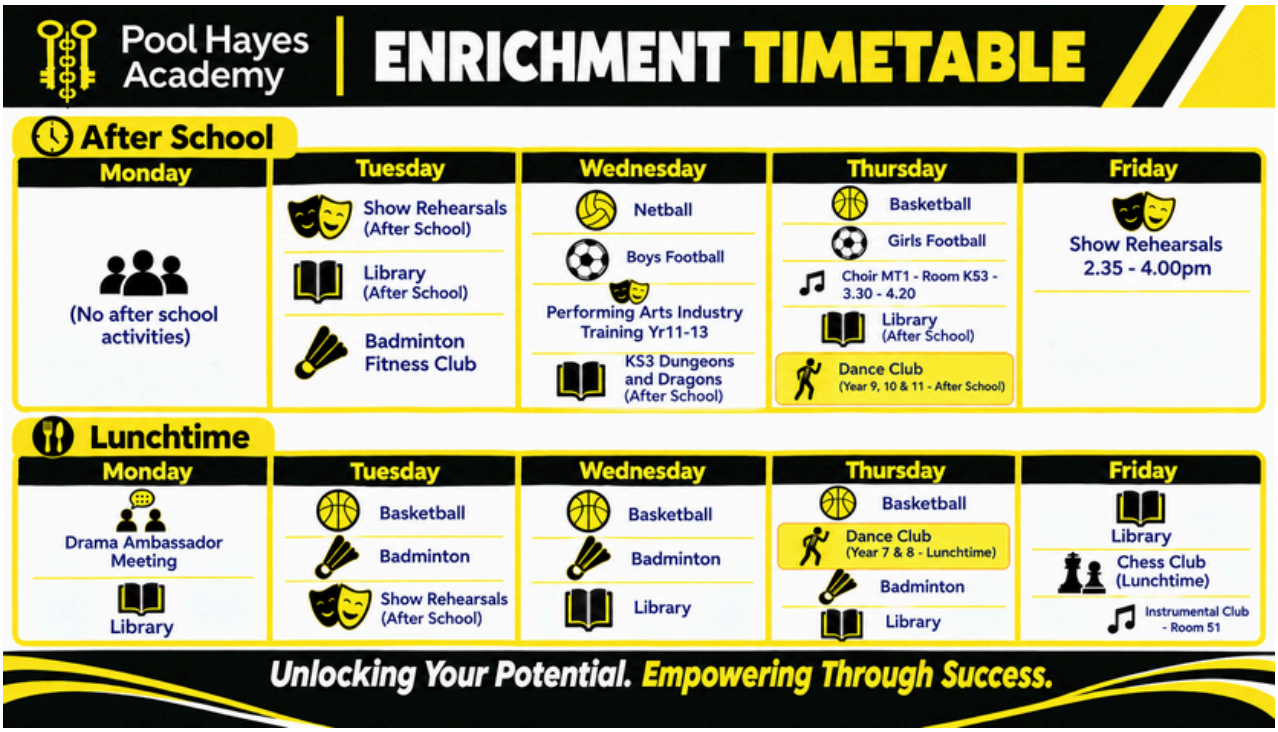

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