



7 September 2022

Dear parents, guardians, carers

The start to the year has been marked by a **transformational 'Step Up' programme**. I trust your children have had a positive experience in enabling them to embrace the challenges of the new academic year. Feedback from students has been very positive in providing an enjoyable 'sense of readiness' for the next stage in their learning journey and refreshing our ethos – those lived out values which convey our sense of care and by which we all 'walk the extra mile' to secure their success.

Once again, this year's **Advanced Level, GCSE and Applied qualification results** have been superb – placing us comfortably among the top 20% of schools nationally. More important, they provide that high level of confidence that year-on-year, increasing numbers of Poole High students can progress to the best courses in the best universities – more than ever before. Courses being followed this year include a diverse range of degrees including: Medicine, Aerospace Engineering, Biomedical Science, Journalism, Psychology, Law, Music, Computer Science and Neuro-Science. Please follow us on Twitter and Facebook to receive regular updates.

GCSE results represent our best ever results – a huge credit to our highly professional subject specialist staff, but also your good selves for instilling such a mature approach and consistent work ethic among our students in all years. Feedback from students has stressed how our focus on 'how to learn' has contributed significantly to this success.

As previously mentioned, just to remind you that on **Thursday 15 September**, school will close at lunchtime for our Staff Training and Open Evening preparations. Please see the [link](#) for other dates. The arrangements are as follows: 12.30pm finish for all students. The main dining hall will be open at 12.30pm for those children entitled to free school meals for a light lunch. Alternatively, students can spend their FSM allowance at break time. Teachers will be setting homework accordingly. Morebus will operate Bus 401 in the morning on Thursday 15 September but advise students to catch the service M1/M2 from the George bus stop to get home at lunchtime. Those students who would normally use the 405 are invited to catch a 5/6 service from the stop on Wimborne road on this date.

For **parents who drive** their children to school, thank you for your consideration regarding the use of the school drive. The school driveway will be closed to all motor vehicles: 8.10am to 8.35am and 2.45pm to 3.10pm. Please do not ask to access the driveway during these times as permission will not be granted. Currently, there are **significant roadworks** on Wimborne Road. Please ensure this is built into travelling time and your **children follow all directions** during the upheaval to pedestrian routes.

As previously mentioned, there has been a significant increase in the numbers of students who cycle to school. **If your child cycles**, please insist they use lights/ 'high viz' and wear a helmet properly.

While the critical mass of students wear our **uniform** with pride and diligence, a small number have needed to be reminded about our expectations ([here](#)). Please remind students of our expectations. I strongly suspect that some girls will be required to wear trousers if they persist

with their convenient amnesia. Skirts should be knee length with a maximum of two inches for growing room. On a similar note, the length of the PE **skort and shorts** need to be according to guidance. – i.e. at least half way between hip and knee. Please check and address this as a matter of urgency to avoid us having to start the year with a punitive tone.

In addition, just to remind you that the current **NHS guidance** is that young people testing positive for Covid should isolate for three days after the day of their positive test. Thank you for your support with this and your common-sense approach this year.

Continuing the well-being message, this year the school is working closely with the Dorset **Police Dog unit**. Students are aware of the severity of sanction should anyone ever dare to bring an illicit substance into the school. Students appreciate the clarity and consistency of our message and response. To reinforce this and to provide complete reassurance on this matter, we shall have trained police dogs coming on to the site on an irregular basis and for spontaneous visits.

Finally, if you have any spare uniform that is in good condition which your child may have grown out of, please could you consider contributing it to FOPHS (Friends of Poole High School) by dropping it off, labelled clearly at the school reception. Any **support for local families** will help enormously.

Any parent who thinks they may be entitled to Free School Meals, please find the link [here](#).

Wishing you all a healthy and happy term and year ahead.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Gray', with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Mr P Gray
Headteacher