



Poole High News Summer 1

April 2025

Issue No. 1



A very warm welcome back after the Easter break. I hope you all managed to spend some quality time with your family and friends enjoying our local area.

If you haven't yet experienced the Julia's House Tail Trail, I would highly recommend it. Especially the PHS entry! See details below.

The summer term brings a fresh feel to the school as the children enjoy the summer sports and clubs on offer. Please do browse the clubs schedule and encourage your child to try something new if they haven't experienced a PHS club yet.

I would like to thank the many of you who have sent kind messages of support to myself and the school for this term. I hope this new communication will help you to feel connected to what is happening in school. We will be sharing a Personal Development section in each edition, we believe this is not only an important part of the work we do in school, but one that it is essential to do in partnership with home. We have started with the very challenging issues raised in the current Netflix documentary *Adolescence*. I do hope you find this information useful and that it helps to have meaningful conversations at home with your child.

Warm regards,
Sian Phillips, Acting Headteacher

Examinations

If your child is taking a public examination this summer, please ensure you have kept up to date with your child's examination entry statement on your Arbor app. This gives you the dates and times of their examinations.

Your child has also been issued a paper copy; this is green!

Important Dates

Tuesday 22 April
Start of Term
Thursday 24 April
VI Form New Parents Info Evening
(current Year 11 parents)
Wednesday 30 April
Year 12 Bath University Trip
Friday 2 May
Year 13 Leavers' Assembly
Monday 5 May
May Day Bank Holiday - School closed
Tuesday 6 May
Start of A-Level Exam Period
Monday 12 May
Start of GCSE Exam Period
Monday 26 May – Fri 30 May
Summer Half Term
Monday 9 Jun - Fri 13 June
Year 10 Work Experience Week

Communications

The fastest way to contact the school is through the online forms. These are found on the home page of the website.

Please use the relevant form to contact the right member of staff.

SEND - for all matters related to your child's special needs.

Attendance - to inform us of any emergency or planned absences.

Pastoral - for all other matters relating to your child.

Personal Development

Adolescence

Every now and then, a TV show comes along that sparks widespread conversation, and that is certainly the case with the Netflix drama *Adolescence*. The series follows 13-year-old Jamie, whose exposure to misogynistic influences and toxic online behaviour ultimately leads to a devastating tragedy. The themes explored are uncomfortable but essential for all parents to understand.

Adolescence explores the harmful effects of:

Misogyny and Gender-based Rage: The show illustrates how young people, especially during identity development, can be influenced by damaging role models and misogynistic content. This distorts their understanding of relationships, body image, and entitlement, affecting both boys and girls.

The Dangers of Online Culture: Social media pressure to conform to societal standards often distorts self-worth. Jamie struggles with body image and self-esteem issues due to exposure to toxic online content. Both boys and girls face these challenges, navigating a digital world that often prioritizes appearance over self-worth.

The Role of Technology in Isolation: As Jamie isolates himself with his computer, he becomes disconnected from his family and the real world. This shows how excessive screen time can cause emotional and social withdrawal, leaving children vulnerable to harmful influences—something both boys and girls can experience.

While these themes are difficult to watch, it's crucial for parents to understand them. The show reminds us that while schools will provide support and education on such matters, parents must remain the primary influence in their children's digital lives. By staying informed and engaged, we can help our children safely navigate the complexities of the digital world together.

As a school we are:

1. Continuing to ensure we are a mobile phone free site. Phones are switched off and in student bags.
2. Having open conversations with students in the classroom.
3. Using PSHE and assemblies to relate to this content.
4. Working with external agencies to ensure we are fully educated.
5. Encourage positive habits by discussing digital content and promoting kindness online.

Further information on this topic can be found at [Safeguarding Network](#)

Advice for parents:

1. Limit children's screen time and when they go to bed, remove devices from their bedrooms.
2. Be curious so that you know your child's perspective on these topics. Questions such as 'who do you think is influential online?' or 'what are your thoughts on...'
3. Listen to your child's ideas. They often know so much more than we do.
4. Use parental controls to block inappropriate content.

For any safeguarding concerns, please contact the school via our [Google form](#).



Events

Poole High Students Shine at the Rotary Design Technology Challenge!

Poole High students showcased their creativity and problem-solving skills at the Rotary Design Technology Challenge on Friday 21st March, competing against over 100 students from across the region. Our teams achieved fantastic results, with Tolly Cole and Gethin Wilson winning 1st place in the KS3 category, and Will Burn and Sam Hockey securing 2nd place in the KS4 category. A huge well done to all who took part, including Betsy Younger, Imogen Thorsen, Millie Shepherd, Archie Christopher, Charlie Hunter, Sam Wells, and Noah Fallows.

Congratulations to all our students for their hard work and innovation!



Poole High Students Go Super-Curricular!

Poole High students have embraced super-curricular learning, taking on exciting challenges beyond the classroom.

Our A-Level Chemistry students took part in the UK Chemistry Olympiad 2025, testing their knowledge, creativity, and problem-solving skills in this prestigious national competition.

Meanwhile, our Science Department celebrated British Science Week (7th–16th March 2025) with a series of lunchtime activities, exploring AI, natural selection, biomimicry, and disaster preparedness.

"British Science Week made me fall in love with science all over again!" – Esher Rongily

Well done to all students who took part in these inspiring opportunities!

Performing Arts

Our Performing Arts students have taken part in an incredible range of workshops, performances, and trips, showcasing their talent and dedication.

Dance students started the year with an inspiring workshop led by Lawrence James, preparing for upcoming performances at the Origins Dance Festival and Summer Arts Evening. They also worked with Natalie Watson on the GCSE set work *Shadows*, gaining expert insight ahead of their exams.

Drama and English students attended a performance of *An Inspector Calls* at The Mayflower, enriching their understanding of this key GCSE text.

Music students had an exciting term, with Year 10s experiencing live performances of their GCSE set works at a Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra concert and a composition workshop. Choir students from Years 7-10 also took part in a Voces8 workshop, learning a cappella pieces with Grammy-nominated vocalists.

Dance Club shone at the Origins Dance Festival and Sadler's Wells Making Moves, performing original choreography and working with industry professionals.

A huge well done to all our students for their dedication and hard work this term!

Events

A Term of Sporting Excellence at Poole High

Students have been excelling across a range of sports and competitions.

Rugby – Our Year 11 rugby team ended their time at PHS on a high, securing convincing wins against both QE and Ringwood in their final matches. The Year 10 girls also had an inspiring rugby taster session with Bath Rugby, with 51 students taking part.

Football – Our Year 10 boys' football team battled their way into the semi-finals with a hard-fought 2-1 victory over St. Edward's.

Individual Achievements – Jack represented the school at the Junior World Golf Championships in Spain, while Freya, a talented Year 12 gymnast, has been selected for the British Gymnastics Performance Pathway.

Netball - Our Year 9 and 10 netball teams were victorious against Ferndown Upper

Well done to all our students for another inspiring term of sport at Poole High!

Inter House Football and Netball Competition Winners
Year 7 Furzey
Year 8 Green
Year 9 Furzey

Ski Trip

Over the February half term break, 40 students from Years 9–12 and five staff embarked on an unforgettable ski trip to Gerlitzen, Austria. After enduring what felt like the longest bus journey in the world, students spent six days on the slopes, tackling three days of low cloud before being rewarded with three days of sunshine and perfect snow. Whether learning to ski for the first time or refining their technique, everyone made fantastic progress and had an amazing time!

Year 10 Geography Field Trip

Over four days, 200 Year 10 students took part in a Geography field trip exploring key coastal and urban topics. At Sandbanks Beach, they conducted fieldwork to measure the impact of longshore drift on our coastline. Later, they visited Poole High Street to assess the effectiveness of the council's regeneration projects. Students represented the school brilliantly, demonstrating curiosity, enthusiasm, and impeccable behaviour throughout the trip.

Maths Challenge at QE School

A group of our Year 12 students attended a Maths Challenge event at Queen Elizabeth School, organised by AMSP to inspire a passion for Maths and explore pathways to studying it at top universities. They tackled a series of challenging problems, worked collaboratively, and had a fantastic time developing their mathematical thinking. Our students truly shone, showcasing their skills and enthusiasm for the subject!



Events

Cambridge University Visit

Students in Years 10, 11 and 12 had the exciting opportunity to visit Downing College, Cambridge, to learn more about applying to top universities. A total of 150 of our students, joined by 20 from Parkstone, took part in the visit. They heard valuable advice on how to make a strong Oxbridge application, what top universities look for, and how to stand out from the crowd.

Bank of England Talk

Year 12 students welcomed a speaker from the Bank of England during an enrichment session. The talk provided fascinating insight into how the Bank works, beyond just changing interest rates.

Students learned about the Bank's role in managing payments, overseeing government debt, and the types of careers available, including how it differs from commercial banking.

Duke of Edinburgh Expeditions

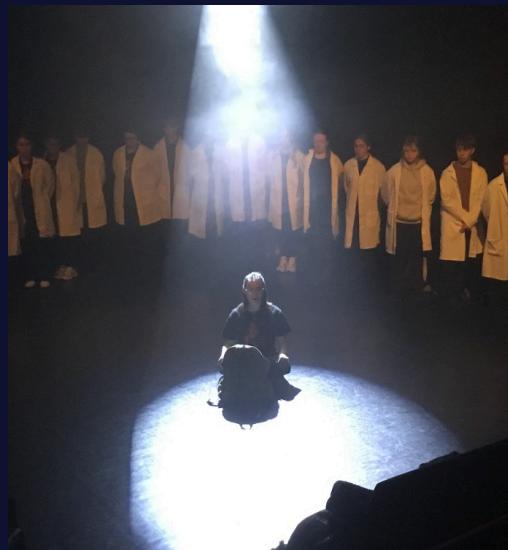
The term has been a fantastic one for our Duke of Edinburgh Award participants, with students at all levels taking on exciting challenges. Gold has returned to Poole High! For the first time since Covid, ten dedicated students embarked on their Gold Practice Expedition in Bannau Brycheiniog (Brecon Beacons), tackling breath-taking peaks in surprisingly sunny conditions.

Meanwhile, our Silver participants took on their Practice Expedition in Cranborne Chase, beginning with a night walk and camping near Wimborne before navigating across stunning countryside. Finally, our Bronze cohort had their Training Day in Wareham, where they mastered navigation, first aid, campcraft, and cooking—preparing them for their first expedition in May. A huge well done to all involved!

National Theatre Connections

Over Easter, 26 incredible students from Years 8–13 took to the stage at The Lighthouse, Poole, performing a brand new play as part of the National Theatre Connections festival.

Our talented performers and tech team not only wowed the audience with a gripping, polished production – they also had the chance to work with a National Theatre director on the day! The experience could even lead to a performance at the National Theatre in London.



Events

The Great Tail Trail

We're so excited to be part of the Julia's House Children's Hospice Mermaid Art Trail!

Our beautifully decorated Tiny Tail sculpture is now proudly on display at Lighthouse Poole, alongside four other fantastic creations from Longfleet Church of England Primary School, Ocean Academy, St Mary's Catholic Primary School Poole and Bournemouth and Poole College.

Pop down to see it and explore the trail with the official Great Tail Trail app – just £1.99, with all proceeds going to support the amazing work of Julia's House.

The app includes maps, rewards, fun facts and more: www.greattailtrail.co.uk/app Get involved, support a brilliant cause, and don't forget to vote for your favourite tail!



Get into Teaching

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