



Poole High News Summer 2

June 2025

Issue No. 2



Welcome back to our last half term of the year.

For those of you with children in exam year groups, we know only too well the pressures on children revising for their exams, and the knock on effects on family life at home. I hope you all managed a break in-between revision sessions.

Well done to all exam groups who have worked so hard this year, I am also grateful to all the staff who have come into school over the holidays through the year to give their extra time to the children. We look forward to the summer when we can celebrate with the children and hear their plans for their next steps, either in our Sixth Form or on to other adventures.

In school this term we will be launching our Head of House and Prefect processes and I encourage all students to consider applying for these or other leadership positions in school. Alongside this, we will be running our student voice and we truly want to hear from all children their views on key matters in school, including some exciting future projects.

I would like to thank you for the feedback on our last Personal Development section, on the issues raised in the documentary *Adolescence*. In the section below we are looking at the prevalent issue of vapes that is sweeping through schools putting so many children at risk. We are working hard to keep our school safe for children to attend without such dangers, but as ever we must tackle this together, so I encourage you all to have open conversations with your children about the health dangers from all vapes, but the added dangers of potentially taking illegal drugs without knowing.

Warm regards,
Sian Phillips, Acting Headteacher

Results Days

Results days 2025:
Thursday 14 August - Year 13 and Year 12 Core Maths
Thursday 21 August - Year 11 and Year 10 Religious Studies

Important Dates

Mon 9 June - Fri 13 June
Year 10 Work Experience Week
Wed 25 June
Year 11 Step Up to Sixth Form Day
Mon 30 June - Thu 3 July
Step Up and Rewards Week Year 7-10
Thu 3 July
Open Evening - school closed to students at 12.30
Fri 4 July
Inset Day
Wed 9 July
Sixth Form Aspirations Day
Tue 10 July
Summer Arts Evening
Fri 11 July
Sports Day
Tue 15 July
Sports Awards Evening
Fri 18 July
Battlefields trip departs
Fri 18 July
Last Day of Term - school closed to students at 12.30

Attendance



You can now report student absences using the Arbor App. While the Google Form is still available, we prefer that you use the app if possible.

[Click here to read instructions on how to report an absence via the app](#)

Personal Development

The Dangers of Vaping

Vaping is becoming more common and accessible, especially among young people. At school, we're committed to helping students make safe, informed choices—and we need your support. Vapes (e-cigarettes) are changing fast. Bright packaging and disposable vapes are popular, and some now contain harmful or illegal substances. Other products are also available such as nicotine pouches (see photo below), and these are increasingly popular. While vaping is often seen as safer than smoking, it's not risk-free—especially for teens. Many vapes contain nicotine salts, which deliver significant levels of nicotine quickly and can be highly addictive.

Some also contain:

- CBD – A legal cannabis compound that may cause drowsiness and affect medications.
- THC – The illegal, psychoactive part of cannabis. Some unregulated vapes contain this Class B drug.
- HHC – A newer, illegal cannabis substance with unknown long-term risks.

We are highly concerned about the number of unregulated vapes and how unsafe these are. Increasingly, children are accessing vapes from online stores which are also unregulated and contents unknown and unmonitored. There is a new law to ban disposable vapes as they are targeted at teens, but we are already seeing cheap supplies of reusable vapes flooding the market.

The risks to children and their development are still yet to be fully understood, however they include; high nicotine levels, harmful particles that can affect the lungs, illegal or artificial substances, now being seized by authorities.

One of the more terrifying concerns is that children have no unit of measure with vapes, some are equivalent to 10 cigarettes and some to 100. The children can't tell and can often vape this amount in a day. We read of children being unable to sleep and waking to vape during the night.

All parents need to be vigilant as the number of children already addicted appears to be far greater than previously smoked cigarettes. This is hugely concerning as we don't yet know the full extent of the long term damage caused by vaping.

Our school behaviour policy clearly states that smoking or bringing smoking paraphernalia, including vapes or drugs onto the school site will lead to a significant sanction.

As a school we are:

1. Addressing vaping in our PSHE curriculum;
2. Raising awareness through assemblies;
3. Working to ensure a vape-free school environment with a culture of vigilance;
4. Working closely with students to ensure vapes are not brought onto school premises by having serious, clear and well communicated sanctions in place for any smoking or vape related products;
5. Listening carefully to students and acting on any information given to us to protect student wellbeing.

By combining education, prevention, and support, we aim to keep our students safe and informed.

Advice for parents:

1. Have open conversations - talk to your child regularly about the risks of vaping;
2. Try and stay updated so you can respond to misinformation;
3. Watch for signs - sweet smells, coughing, or the appearance of small, unfamiliar devices;
4. Monitor social media use, vaping is often glamourised online;
5. Remind your child that it is illegal to buy vapes under the age of 18 – and for others to buy them on their behalf. That all class B drugs are illegal.

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



Events

Year 13 Leaver's Day

Our Year 13 Leavers' Assembly was a heartfelt celebration marking the end of the incredible journey. Students and staff enjoyed a nostalgic look back through old school photos, reflecting on memories made over the years and particularly enjoyed looking back through their school photos from Year 7!

Tutors shared their well wishes and favourite memories and took this time to congratulate students on their growth and achievements over the past two years. After the assembly, students headed outside to enjoy ice creams in the sunshine. We wish this fantastic cohort all the best as they prepare for their next exciting chapter.



Mr Jarvis' Marathon Success

Thank you to everyone who has donated so far, and a huge congratulations to Mr. Jarvis on completing his fifth London Marathon!

We're incredibly proud of his achievement—finishing in an impressive 4 hours and 6 minutes, his second-fastest time to date!

Despite the heat, he powered through to raise funds for a cause close to his heart: the Royal British Legion. Mr. Jarvis has served as Musical Director of the Christchurch British Legion Band for over a decade.

If you'd like to support Mr. Jarvis and the vital work of the Royal British Legion, you can donate here:

<https://2025tcslondonmarathon.enthuse.com/pf/nick-jarvis>

Performing Arts

It's been another exciting half term for Performing Arts at Poole High School! Our Drama students impressed with a performance of Brain Play at The Lighthouse as part of National Theatre Connections, and our dancers were shortlisted for the prestigious Sadler's Wells Making Moves showcase.

We are excited to announce that this half term Year 8 students will explore Indian drumming with Art Asia, while Dance Club members are preparing for a workshop with Linden Dance Company, leading up to our Primary Dance Festival later this term. Meanwhile, Year 7 students in our new Samba Band are gearing up for their Open Evening debut.

Our partnership with SoundStorm has enabled enriching opportunities, including a composition workshop with Bath Philharmonia for Year 9 students, and we look forward to welcoming Linden Dance for a live performance of Caged in July.

We're also proud to take part in the Twynham Learning Trust KS3 Music Concert on 25th June, and **invite everyone to our Summer Arts Evening on 10th July (5–7.30pm)**—a celebration of student creativity across the arts. Finally, our Musical Nurture Group continues to use music as a tool for wellbeing, helping students build confidence, creativity, and resilience



Events

Science Olympiad

Our A level students took part in the Royal Society of Chemistry's UK Chemistry Olympiad 2025, the leading chemistry competition for secondary students across the British Isles.

This was a unique opportunity for students to push themselves further and excel in the chemistry field. Budding chemists develop critical problem-solving skills, learn to think more creatively and get a chance to test their knowledge in new, real-world situations.

Naples Geography Trip

In April, five dedicated members of staff gave up the start of their Easter break to take a large group of Year 10-13 students to Naples to explore the many incredible sites that this exciting part of Italy has to offer! The students absolutely loved visiting the archaeological sites of Pompeii and Herculaneum and learning about how the eruption of Mt Vesuvius led to the devastation of these ancient cities. The students then got to see Mt Vesuvius in all its glory as they climbed the summit and enjoyed the breath-taking views over the Bay of Naples! Other highlights included a boat trip to and around Capri, gelato making and the consumption of A LOT of pizza!

Chess Club – A Season of Strategy and Success

As the academic year progresses, we bid a fond farewell to our large and enthusiastic Year 11 Chess contingent, who now turn their focus to their GCSE examinations. Our Year 11 chess players have been a cornerstone of our large and popular club, with many having proudly represented the school at the Dorset Junior Chess Championships last year. Their participation has not only sharpened their competitive edge but also inspired younger players with their dedication and sportsmanship.

This term we have been playing competitively in our school House tournament, with Green House taking the winning place, captained by Joel Tarrant (Y11).

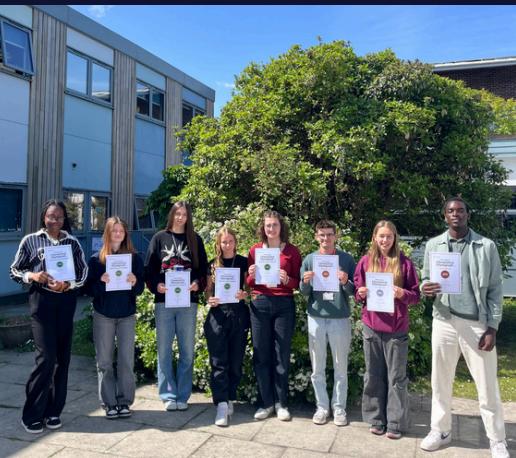
Chess Club meets every Wednesday lunchtime in Room 59, where students can enjoy a friendly environment to develop their skills, challenge their peers, and sharpen their tactics. Whether you're looking to learn the basics or refine your endgame, there's a seat at the board waiting for you! Bring your lunch!

Year 12 University Opportunities

Year 12 students have recently taken part in exciting activities to explore university life and future pathways. 130 students visited Bath University, touring the campus and sports facilities, experiencing a lecture theatre, and speaking with student ambassadors. They represented Poole High brilliantly, showing curiosity and enthusiasm throughout the day.

Another group of 60 students attended a Cambridge University lecture, where Ellen from Downham College offered valuable advice on applying to Russell Group universities and standing out through extracurricular activities — many of which we already support at Poole High.

We are also looking forward to the UCAS Discovery Event at Bournemouth University on the 30th June 2025.



PE and Sport

Interhouse Sport

The recent Interhouse Rounders competition at Poole High School was a fantastic success, drawing in high levels of participation and support from both students and staff. Each house showed incredible team spirit and sportsmanship, with matches played in great spirit and enthusiasm. The event saw one of the highest attendances for an interhouse competition this year, creating a lively and supportive atmosphere. Thanks to excellent organisation and strong engagement from all year groups, the tournament ran smoothly and proved to be a memorable and enjoyable occasion for everyone involved.

Year 7 Winners - Long House

Year 8 Winners - Furzey House



Athletics

Year 7 and 8s competed in Track and Field Cup at Kings Park Stadium. Competing in a variety of different athletic events to gain points for their school. Highlights of the day included both teams (photographed) winning the boys and girls relay and a new school long jump record for Oscar G (Year 8) – 5.19 metres!



Football

What a fantastic result in the U19 County Cup Final as the boys took home the spoils and the cup after a nail biting penalty shootout! It was 2-0 to PHS at 60 mins but Lytchett fought back to make it 2-2! The game ended with a penalty shootout which ended PHS victors!



Individual Success Stories

Year 11 student, Lexi, competed in the Four Nations English Rowing Beach Sprints Championships and won Bronze.

A huge congratulations to Emma in Year 7, who won the nett event at the Dorset Golf Championships – an incredible achievement!



Events



Poole High School Open Evening 3 July 2025 4.30pm - 7.00pm (Last entry 6.30pm)

This is our only Open Evening for prospective Year 5s

Please forward this on to any prospective parents who may be considering Poole High School for their child in September 2026, this is the perfect opportunity to visit.

Take a guided tour of our campus:

Science Labs · Art Studios · IT Suites · Drama & Music Rooms · Sports Hall · Swimming Pool

“Teachers’ relationships with children are warm and allow learning to happen without disruption.”

“The consistency in behaviour allows children to thrive without worry.”

Can’t make this date?

We will be offering small group tours of the school during the school day in September, bookable through our website.

Details will be shared online soon at poolehigh.co.uk

Come and see for yourself why children thrive here.

Friends of Poole High School (FOPHS)

Join us for the AGM of our amazing fundraising team on Monday 16 June at 5:30pm at Poole High School. New volunteers are warmly welcomed—come along and find out what we're all about.

Get into Teaching

OPEN EVENTS

- Bursaries available
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