



Poole High News Autumn 1

September 2025

Happy New School Year!

We have enjoyed welcoming back your children over the past few days and are looking forward to getting to know all of our new students in the coming weeks.



I would like to extend huge thanks to our Estates and IT team for the work they have undertaken this summer, which includes; a brand new computer suite, new windows in the History and Art suites, a new boiler, new Sports Hall floor and a new alarm system to keep us all safe. We will be rehearsing fire and lockdown drills with the new alarm throughout September, to familiarise the students.

Throughout this academic year we also have plans to refurbish some of our sports courts and toilets. We are really grateful to everyone who has been involved with the planning of these projects, which will allow these improvements to take place.

It is also our intention to improve our multi weather dining facilities. To make this work we will be fundraising for outdoor benches, bins and landscaping to provide the children with the best facilities. I will write to you again through the year to ask for your support, but in the meantime if you can afford a small amount of time to help support FOPHS (Friends of Poole High School) we would be so grateful. We would not be able to provide some of our facilities and support for the children, without this incredible contribution of time. Contact details for FOPHS can be found on the last page of this bulletin. Please do not be afraid to make contact even if your time is limited. If each parent could offer one hour per year, that would equate to almost 4000 hours of volunteering!

Finally can I say a huge congratulations to our outgoing Year 11 and Year 13 students for their incredible exam results. We are always in awe of the adversaries they can overcome to achieve life changing results. Very best wishes to everyone in your next exciting chapter. Please stay in touch as we would love to hear the wonderful things you go on to do. Additionally our Year 10 students who completed their RS GCSE in the summer received fantastic results, what a great start to your GCSE's!

Warm regards, Sian Phillips, Acting Headteacher

Transitioning back to school

We are aware that after a long break away from the school routine, September can seem daunting for everyone. This is why, a few years ago, we introduced staggered start days for all students. Our aim is a worry free, positive and inspiring start to a new academic year. During these days, the students follow a carefully designed programme of interactive sessions which introduce them to, or, remind them of the Poole High School routines and expectations. As well as actively engaging with the classroom, homework, attendance and safeguarding expectations, there are also lessons on: How Learning Happens, Motivation, Aspirations, School Community and House Identity. We hope your child is enjoying this transition back to school and is looking forward to all the new things they will learn!

Key Information

Prepared for school

Please help your child to be ready for the day by checking their bag for the correct equipment, as listed in their planner and on the website.

Checking uniform at home is also helpful as it will allow a much smoother start to the day in school. All uniform requirements are on the website and planner.

While we are very specific on these requirements this is to save lesson time for learning and to ensure that uniform doesn't become a fashion competition or a source of bullying for the students.

School Places Available

If you are looking for a school place for a sibling, or you have friends and family looking for a placement, we do have a few places available in some year groups.

Please contact us through the admissions section of the website.

For anyone looking for a space in Year 7 next year, we are running school tours in September in place of our Open Evening. We have a few slots left to be booked, please see the front page of our website.

Important Dates

Fri 12 - Fri 19 September

Parent Tours for prospective students

Mon 15 September

New York Parents Information Evening

Mon 22 September

Year 12 & Year 13 Parents information Evening

Tue 23 September

Year 11 Parents Information Evening

Wed 24 September

Year 10 Parents Information Evening

Thu 25 September

Year 9 Parents Information Evening

Fri 26 September

McMillan Coffee Morning Cake Sale

Thu 2 October

Sixth Form Open Evening

Thu 16 October

Year 7 & Year 8 Parents Information Evening

Fri 24 October & Mon 3 November

Inset Days - School Closed

Tue 4 November

All Year groups return to school

Contacting the school

Please contact the school using the online Microsoft Forms. These can be found on our [website](#).

Pastoral Officers monitor our forms who will then prioritise and triage the information provided. Please do ensure you keep us up-to-date with any information needed which helps your child.

Attendance

Please report any student absences using the Arbor App. While the Microsoft Form is available for this purpose, 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

Keeping Students Safe and Prioritising Wellbeing

At our school, student safety and wellbeing are at the heart of everything we do. We know that when children feel safe, supported, and understood, they thrive - both academically and personally. That's why we've put thoughtful systems in place to ensure every student feels secure and respected throughout the school day.

One of the ways we support this is through our toilet pass system, which you'll find in each student's planner. Every student receives two emergency toilet passes per year, and we want to explain the reasoning behind this approach.

Why Do We Use Toilet Passes?

1. **Emergency Access:** If a student urgently needs to use the toilet, they can always request to do so. The pass ensures they have a way to communicate this need respectfully and safely.
2. **Minimising Lost Learning:** Frequent trips out of lessons can lead to missed learning. The pass system helps us strike a balance between meeting personal needs and maintaining focus in the classroom.
3. **Safety and Supervision:** Toilets are not monitored during lessons, and like all schools, we are mindful of concerns such as bullying, vaping, and other behaviours. The pass system helps us manage this responsibly.

We want to be clear: this system is built with kindness and care. We would never want any child, ours or yours, to feel unsafe or unsupported. The toilet pass is a boundary with the right intention: to keep children safe, reduce disruption, and ensure everyone knows where they stand. Since introducing this policy a few years ago we have seen a significant reduction in online bullying during the school day. This allows us to keep everyone safe.

What Happens When Passes Are Used?

If a student uses both passes, they can simply request a new sticker from the Year Office. There's no penalty or judgment, just a quick replacement. If we notice a student is using the toilet very frequently, we'll reach out to check in. Sometimes this can indicate a medical issue or a wellbeing concern, and we want to make sure every child gets the support they need.

Students can visit the bathroom before school, in scheduled breaks and after school. Most students find these times more than sufficient. If your child has a medical condition that requires more frequent access, we're happy to provide a standard medical pass. Please contact the Year Office so we can make the necessary arrangements.

We're proud of the calm, respectful culture we're building together. Thank you for your continued support in helping us keep every child safe, happy, and ready to learn.

As a school we are:

1. Currently, we are increasing the number of toilets we have available. A new toilet block is being planned this year.
2. Ensuring there is a staff presence at social times near the bathrooms to ensure appropriate and safe use. Students report they feel safer places to be.
3. If your child ever needs toiletries or sanitary products, our Year Offices and Student Welfare Office are here to help—just ask.
4. Ensure our toilets are always available. Students can use them:
 - Before school (before 8:20am)
 - Break time (10:55–11:15am)
 - Lunch time (1:15–1:55pm)
 - After school (from 2:55pm)

Advice for parents:

We understand that it can feel frustrating for students when they're told they can't leave a lesson whenever they choose—and we know that many will say, "Going to the toilet is a human right!" And of course, they're right. But it's also important that students understand the balance between rights and responsibilities.

At school, we work hard to ensure that every student can access the toilet when they genuinely need to. At the same time, we also want to protect learning time and make sure that all students feel safe and respected in shared spaces. We'd really appreciate your support in having conversations at home too. These small but important messages help us create a calm, respectful school environment.



Summer News

GCSE and A-level Results

We are absolutely thrilled to share the incredible success of our students in this summer's GCSE, A-Level, and vocational qualifications. Their hard work, resilience, and ambition have truly paid off, and we couldn't be prouder of every single one of them.

Our Year 11 students have achieved exceptional results, with:

- 78% securing a Grade 4 or above in both English and Maths
- 55% achieving Grade 5 or above – well above the national average of 46%

Their achievements reflect the strength of our curriculum, the dedication of our staff, and the determination of our students.

Special congratulations to: Cara Short, Jack Roman, Harry Cutbush, Abi Ellis, Lawrence Greatbanks, Sully Bayliss, Mason Stephens, Rebecca Footner, Tom Cope, Sophie Ellis, and Jacob Rigler – who together achieved an astonishing 38 Grade 9s! Truly phenomenal!

We also want to celebrate our Year 10 students, who sat their Religious Studies GCSE a year early and performed brilliantly – a testament to their maturity and commitment.

Our Sixth Form students have also excelled across a wide range of A-Level and vocational qualifications, with:

- An average A-Level Grade of B-
- An average vocational Grade of Distinction

We are delighted to celebrate the achievements of our top performers:

Nathan Fry, Amir Pirzadeh, Finley Cooke, Connor McHarg, Barney Ralph, Alex Chernenko, Shelby Hanney, Abbie Avery, Joe Thurlow, Connor Garland, Katie McLeod, Poppy Fudge-Harman, Joe Pepe, Hanin Walid Aly, Jaya Collinson, Daisy Tonkes, Izzie Eeles, Amara Marshall, Nathalie Cabaya, and Lily France – who together secured 16 A*s, 35 As, and 4 Distinction*!

These results reflect the strength of our school community and the unwavering support from families, staff, and peers. We are incredibly proud of our students and are excited to see what they will achieve next.



Battlefields Trip

In July, Year 8 and Year 9 students were able to experience the historically significant World War One battlefields sites in France and Belgium. They visited key cemeteries including the German Langemark, casualty clearing station Lijssenthoek and the well-known Theipval and Tyne Cot. Students were also able to visit British trenches at Hill 69, and German trenches to understand the experience of soldiers at the time. A whole day was dedicated to the infamous Battle of the Somme with students visiting various sites linked to one of the bloodiest battles in World War One.



Events

Friends of Poole High School (FOPHS)

We are looking for enthusiastic parents, carers, and friends to join our school PTA, Friends of Poole High School. If you enjoy planning, organising, or simply lending a hand, we would love your help with our fundraising events.

Together, we aim to raise funds to enhance the school's external environment, creating more welcoming and supportive spaces for students to enjoy during their social times.

What we need help with:

📅 Planning fun and engaging fundraising events

🧠 Sharing ideas and organising activities

👏 Manning stalls/selling refreshments and raffle tickets, supporting events

Whether you can offer a little time or a lot, your contribution will make a big impact!

One of the planned events we need help with, is our Christmas Market on Thursday 4 December. With your help, we can host more fundraising opportunities to ensure we raise our target funds.

Interested?

Please contact Fiona at foph@poolehigh.poole.sch.uk

Let's work together to create a better school environment for all our students!



Lost Property

As we begin the new academic year, we would like to inform you that **any lost property handed in during the last academic year** will be available for collection from Student Services at **break times and after school until Friday 26 September**.

After this date, any unclaimed items will be:

- Donated to local charities
- Added to the school's equipment loan system
- Passed on to Friends of Poole High School to be included in their pre-loved uniform sales, which help raise vital funds to enhance our school environment.

If your child lost any items last year, please encourage them to check Student Services before the deadline.

Thank you for your continued support.



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