



Poole High News Autumn 2

November 2025

Welcome back to all our students. It has been a wonderfully busy and exciting time, with school trips continuing through the holidays and into this week.

A huge thank you to all our students, we've received such positive feedback about their excellent behaviour and curious enthusiasm, both on trips and when we have had visitors in school. They have been a real credit to our community and we are very proud of them.



We are also delighted that work has begun on our new sports courts over the holidays. This fantastic development will make a real difference to the facilities available for our children, enhancing both PE lessons and after school clubs. A big thank you to all the staff who have worked so hard to make this project a reality.

Finally, thank you to all the parents who attempted to get in touch to support FOPHS. Unfortunately we have had an issue with the email account and couldn't access your messages. Please can I ask you to get in touch again at FOPHS@poolehigh.poole.sch.uk Your fundraising efforts are greatly appreciated and make a real difference to what we can do for the children. Any support for the upcoming Christmas fair would be most welcome.

With best wishes, **Sian Phillips, Acting Headteacher**

Important Dates

Fri 7 November

Year 7 London trip

Thu 13 November

Year 12 & 13 Parents Evening

Thu 4 December

Poole High Christmas Fayre

Mon 15 December

Year 7 Carol Service

Tue 16 December

Year 8 Carol Service

Thurs 18 December

Christmas Concert

Fri 19 December

Last day of term - School closed at 12:30pm

Mon 5 January

All Year groups return

Attendance

You may be aware that school attendance is a growing concern across the country. At Poole High School, we are committed to helping every student understand the critical link between attendance and academic success, particularly how missed lessons directly impact GCSE outcomes.

GCSE results show a clear correlation:

Attendance matters - every lesson counts, every absence adds up.

Student Attendance	Progress Compared to National Average	Days Missed	Lessons Missed
100%	+1.42 grades	0	0
95%-99.9%	+1.12 grades	1-9	5-45
90%-94.9%	+1.03 grades	10-20	50-100
Below 90%	-0.11 grades	20+	100+

Personal Development

Safeguarding

My name is Sam Bury, and I am delighted to introduce myself as the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) here at Poole High School. My role is to oversee all aspects of safeguarding within the school, ensuring that every student feels safe, supported and cared for.



Safeguarding is at the heart of everything we do, and it's something that every member of staff takes responsibility for. We are proud to have a dedicated and well-trained team who work tirelessly to maintain a safe and nurturing environment for all our students.

This term, we are especially proud of how our students have demonstrated self-regulation, responsibility, and maturity. While our new Year 7s may not know any different, the wider student body has embraced the increased independence that comes with our open campus model. With access to designated activity zones for football and basketball, year group classroom areas, computer suites, and a variety of lunchtime clubs - alongside the opportunity to mix socially with all other year groups - our young people have managed these freedoms exceptionally well.

Following on from recent newsletters highlighting our commitment to digital safety, we're excited to announce the launch of the Twynham Learning Online Safety Hub, a fantastic resource for both students and parents. This hub offers practical tools, advice, and guidance to help families navigate the online world safely. We strongly encourage all parents and carers to explore the hub and make it a go-to source for safeguarding updates and support. Details on how to access the hub can be found [here](#).

In addition, we're pleased to introduce Qustodio — a free parent app now available to Poole High School families. Qustodio supports healthy and balanced online habits by allowing parents to monitor screen time, view online activity, and manage which apps and websites their child can access. Normally a paid subscription service, Poole High parents can now access the premium version at no cost. This initiative complements our wider commitment to digital safety, and we hope it becomes a valuable tool for families. Further details on how to activate your free account are provided below.

We're proud of the positive steps our students are taking this term, both in their learning and in how they navigate school life. As always, we'll continue to work closely with families to support our young people and keep safeguarding at the forefront of everything we do.

Advice and Support for parents:

Continue to monitor your child's online activities.

Encourage conversations with your child around their life online.

Access your free Qustodio account by going to the [Online Safety website](#) and click on the 'Create a free account' button on the [homepage](#).

Keep yourself up to date with the ongoing developments and challenges for our children.

Qustodio Parent App

We have partnered with [Qustodio](#) to provide our families with the necessary tools and support they need to ensure their children's safety and well-being online.

Create a free account →

Parental Controls

A screenshot of the Qustodio Parental Controls app interface, showing various monitoring tools and a family photo.

Events

Year 11 University trips

At the start of this term, our Year 11 students enjoyed an inspiring day visiting one of the following universities; Bournemouth University, Chichester University, Reading University, Solent University or the University of Bath. The visits were designed to give students a taste of university life and help them to start thinking about their future pathways.

During the day, students were given a tour of the campus. They also heard from university student ambassadors, who shared their personal experiences of the university.

It was a fantastic opportunity for our Year 11s to gain insight into what life beyond school could look like and, hopefully, inspire them to aim high in their future aspirations and pathways.



Macmillan cake sale

Our Sixth Form students recently hosted a cake sale in support of Macmillan Cancer Support, raising an impressive £311.47! The event featured an array of homemade bakes, from blondies to cheesecakes, which were sold to and enjoyed by staff and students across all year groups. It was a true celebration of baking talent and generosity.

A huge well done and thank you to our Sixth Form students and Mrs Thomas who organised and ran the day. We are incredibly proud of their hard work, teamwork and commitment to supporting such a worthy cause.

Cooking masterclass

Our talented Year 9 and 10 students have been sharpening their culinary skills in the after-school Masterclass – one of the focuses this week was on plating techniques.

Using chocolate teacakes as their centrepiece, students explored how to present dishes like true professionals. From symmetry and balance to texture and colour contrasts, the session offered hands-on experience in turning simple ingredients into eye-catching creations.

Well done to everyone involved – we're already looking forward to the next creations.



Events

Music Lessons

Want to learn an instrument or have singing lessons?

Students are able to have individual lessons on a range of instruments which include: guitar, drums, piano, singing violin, trumpet, saxophone flute and more which are delivered by our highly skilled Peripatetic Music Team. For more information, please follow the link which will take you to the application form.

<https://forms.office.com/e/79dbLw56u5>

Any questions please email:
headofmusic@poolehigh.poole.sch.uk

Peripatetic Teacher

We are delighted to welcome Mr Hinchliffe to the team. He is our new brass teacher and currently teaches trumpet and trombone. Previously, Mr Hinchliffe played in the "Band of the Household Cavalry" for 28 years.



He was one of the state trumpeters and performed fanfares for royal events such as royal weddings. At the age of 9, he was introduced to music through his involvement in the Salvation Army when he started learning the cornet. This love of music encouraged him to consider a career in music and being an army musician provided numerous opportunities to perform in the U.S.A. New Zealand, mainland Europe as well as state occasions here in the U.K.

An Introduction to Autism and Neurodiversity for parents.

Linwood are offering free training sessions for parents and carers, providing a basic introduction to how Autism and Neurodiversity may present in children and young people.

Your child does not need a formal diagnosis for you to attend.

These sessions are free of charge and open to families living in the BCP area.

To book a place, please email: Itsa@linwood.bournemouth.sch.uk

Upcoming Dates and Locations:

- Thursday 20th November, 9:30–11:45am – Highcliffe School
- Tuesday 27th January, 9:30–11:45am – Talbot Primary School
- Wednesday 11th March, 9:30–11:45am – The Epiphany School
- Thursday 30th April, 9:30–11:45am – Twynham Primary School, Marsh Lane
- Tuesday 19th May, 9:30–11:30am – Highcliffe St. Mark Primary School
- Tuesday 30th June 9:30–11:45am - Corfe Hills School
- Tuesday 7th July, 9:30–11:45am – Online via Zoom

Please state on the email that your child attends Poole High School.

LINWOOD
TRAINING, SUPPORT & ADVICE

An Introduction to Autism and Neurodiversity for Parents

Led by Kate Tuck & Joseph Liddiard
Linwood Training, Support & Advice

This session will provide parents with a basic overview of how Autism and Neurodiversity may present in children and young people.

- Information about Autism and Neurodiversity including the 3 areas of difference.
- Young person input "My experiences".



Key Information

Accessing Microsoft 365/Teams from home

During their time at Poole High School your child will need to access learning and homework from our online system. We are using Microsoft 365 and Teams for this.

In order for your child to be able to access this at home please follow these instructions:

- Before starting make sure the browser you are using is not logged into any other account
- In your web browser type; www.office.com
- Click on SIGN IN
- Your child will need to use their school email address e.g. 22mouse.mickey@poolehigh.poole.sch.uk
- Their password, is the password they use to log in at school -Students were given a sticker for their planner in September with their log in information. This will then log them into Microsoft 365 where they can access Teams, OneDrive and the main Microsoft tools.

To access any of the above click on APPS and then choose the package they wish to access.

If there are any issues with your child's password please email loginissues@poolehigh.poole.sch.uk with your child's name and the issue you are encountering. Please note this inbox is not monitored all the time.

Free School Meals

Free School Meals (FSM) are available to school-aged children from families receiving certain benefits. As well as a free, healthy lunch, eligible children are also entitled to additional funding (Pupil Premium), which helps support their learning, confidence, and wellbeing.

Free School Meals are provided for children who are attending a school on a full-time basis. You can claim for any child who you are the parent of i.e. any child whom you have parental responsibility for or is in your care, if you are in receipt of any of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit. You must also have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018, your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

If you think you are eligible please apply [here!](#)



Degree Apprenticeships

Understanding Degree Apprenticeships: A Guide for Parents/Carers

Degree apprenticeships offer an alternative to traditional university routes, combining academic study with practical work experience.

What Is an Apprenticeship?

An apprenticeship is a paid job that includes training and study. Apprentices work for an employer while gaining qualifications related to their role. They earn a wage, receive holiday pay, and gain hands-on experience in their chosen field. A degree apprenticeship allows young people to work towards a full bachelor's or master's degree while working. Tuition fees are covered by the employer and the government, meaning apprentices graduate debt-free. They typically take 3-5 years to complete.

Apprenticeship Level	Equivalent Education Level	Typical Age Range
Intermediate (Level 2)	GCSEs	16+
Advanced (Level 3)	A Levels	16+
Higher (Level 4-5)	Foundation degree/HNC/HND	18+
Degree (Level 6-7)	Bachelor's/Master's degree	18+

Why Choose a Degree Apprenticeship?

Degree apprenticeships offer a unique blend of benefits that make them an attractive option for many students:

- Earn While You Learn
- No Tuition Fees
- Real-World Experience
- High Employability
- Industry-Relevant Learning
- Alternative to Traditional University Types of Apprenticeships

Industries Degree Apprenticeships are available in;

Engineering and manufacturing

- Digital and technology
- Healthcare and nursing
- Law and finance
- Construction and surveying
- Business and management

How to Apply for a Degree Apprenticeship

- Research Opportunities
- Prepare a CV, Cover Letter and Personal Statement
- Apply Directly to Employers
- Attend Interviews and Assessment Days
- Secure a Place at a Partner University



Where to Find Out More

Here are some websites that can be used to explore degree apprenticeship opportunities and guidance:

- GOV.UK Apprenticeships – Official listings and application portal <https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>
- UCAS – Information on how apprenticeships compare to university routes <https://www.ucas.com/apprenticeships>
- Amazing Apprenticeships – Resources for parents/carers and students <https://amazingapprenticeships.com>

Supporting Your Child

As a parent/carer, your encouragement and understanding can make a big difference. Help your child explore their options, prepare applications, and stay motivated. Degree apprenticeships are competitive but incredibly rewarding.