



# Poole High News Summer 1

April 2026

Dear Families,

I hope you all enjoyed a relaxing Easter break and were able to spend some valuable time together.



This term is very much focused on examinations. For those of you with children in exam year groups, we recognise that this can be a particularly challenging period. Supporting students to prioritise healthy routines, including eating well and getting enough sleep, is crucial in helping them remain physically and mentally prepared for what can feel like a demanding endurance race. Advice is available on the school website, and students are supported through their curriculum with guidance on revision strategies and healthy living.

During the first two terms of this academic year, our students have taken part in a remarkable number of activities and trips, many of which are highlighted in our newsletters and on the school Instagram page. If your child has not yet found something at Poole High that truly inspires them, we would encourage them to explore the wide range of opportunities available. Clubs are promoted weekly through tutor notices, and we are keen for every student to be involved in an activity they are passionate about. Please also take a moment to look at the end of the newsletter for details of upcoming trips planned for the year ahead.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete our smartphone consultation. We have received responses from parents, students, staff and governors, and these have been carefully collated. The number of parents reporting incidents of online bullying, as well as children witnessing inappropriate images or videos, is concerning. Whilst we recognise that students can access the internet in many ways, unmonitored times, such as journeys to and from school or phone use in school toilets are most commonly, when issues arise.

Another significant concern raised was students being photographed or filmed without their consent. These images can be shared widely and can cause considerable distress. These concerns reflect what our staff are also seeing in school and the impact such incidents can have on students.

Parents also shared understandable concerns about any move towards a smartphone-free policy, including how students would contact home regarding changes to arrangements, the ability to track journeys between home and school, and payment for buses.

The Leadership Team is now working closely with the Student Council, Governors and the Trust to ensure we have a thoughtful and balanced policy in place for September, one that prioritises student safety whilst recognising the practical realities of modern life. We will share further details and the outcomes of this work with you in the coming weeks.

Finally, a huge thank you to everyone who takes the time to share feedback with us—both when things go well and when something doesn't feel quite right. We really value the chance to reflect on the work we are doing, and we appreciate the opportunity to work together to keep improving.

With best wishes, Sian Phillips, Headteacher

## Attendance - why it matters



We place huge importance on attendance because we know that when children are in school consistently, they do better academically, socially, and emotionally. Being in the classroom gives students access to high-quality teaching, trusted adults, friendship, routine, and timely support when things become difficult.

We want to be clear: we do not expect children to attend school when they are genuinely unwell, and we recognise that some students experience anxiety, health issues, or additional needs that can make regular attendance more challenging. For this reason, we deliberately avoid crude attendance rewards, which can unfairly penalise pupils who are working hard to overcome real barriers to being in school.

Attendance is however one element of our 100 Score, which recognises pupils' overall commitment to school and links to termly and Headteacher's rewards. The score is equally weighted across attendance, behaviour, attitude to learning and homework, ensuring that achievement is measured holistically. Pupils need 98% attendance to secure full attendance credit, recognising that short periods of illness are unavoidable.

However, we continue to be concerned about students whose absence is not linked to illness or significant need, but to a lack of routine, growing patterns of picking and choosing days, or term-time holidays. Our attendance rates are currently below the national average, and this has a real impact, not just on individual students, but on our wider school community.

Every missed day matters. Absence creates gaps in learning that teachers must then work hard to close, pulls staff away from supporting students with additional needs, and stretches already limited resources. It also makes it harder for students to feel confident, settled, and successful in school.

We need parents and carers to work alongside us by:

- Completing our parent survey here: <https://forms.office.com/e/ZaK6f5qcJh>
- Making attendance a priority and promoting strong daily routines
- Avoiding "random" days off that quickly add up over time
- Speaking to us early if there is a problem so we can support you
- Not booking term-time holidays, while this can be contentious, the impact on learning, well-being, and school resources should not be underestimated

Our aim is simple: to do the right thing for every student. That means supporting those who struggle to attend, while also protecting the education of the vast majority who attend regularly, want to learn, and deserve consistency. With your support, we can focus our time where it matters most: closing gaps, keeping students with additional needs successfully in classrooms, and helping all students thrive.

Vicki Stillman, Deputy Headteacher

## Job Opportunity

BCP Council have vacancies for Passenger Assistants to support children with SEND on their journeys to and from school daily.

You would need to be available (approx.):

7am – 10am and 2.30pm – 5pm daily. Term Time only.

Full training given to include First Aid, Epilepsy, Safeguarding, Autism and Induction, as well as on the job training with existing Passenger Assistants. Both Male and Female applicants welcomed. For a Job Description and Application form please email: [claire.vass@bcpcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:claire.vass@bcpcouncil.gov.uk)

Or call 01202 123683 for an informal chat.



## Changes to Student Services

Student Services is open 8:15–9:00am, at break time, and after school from 2:55–3:15pm. Students can borrow equipment during these times, and all lost property is also kept here.

Currently, students borrow equipment in exchange for a deposit (most commonly a mobile phone). From 27<sup>th</sup> April 26 you will also be able to purchase essential equipment from our “school shop” on Arbor and students can collect their purchased items from Student Services. Further information about how to use Arbor Pay can be found on our website.

We will also be changing our system for borrowing equipment from 27<sup>th</sup> April 26. Deposits will no longer be taken; instead, borrowing will now be based on trust. If an item is not returned, we will send a notification to parents and carers. If the item is not returned within two school days, the cost of the item will be charged to your Arbor account. We ask parents and carers where children regularly borrow equipment to ensure that funds are available for this purpose — we suggest keeping a £5 balance on your Arbor account.

Please ensure that your child is fully equipped for school each day. If you need any support with this, do not hesitate to contact us.

## Important Dates

**Mon 13 - Fri 24 April**  
Year 10 Diagnostic Exams

**Thu 23 April**  
Sixth Form Information Evening

**Fri 1 May**  
Year 13 Leavers Assembly

**Mon 4 May**  
School Closed for Bank Holiday

**Mon 11 - Tue 12 May**  
Year 9 Booster Vaccinations

**Mon 25 - Fri 29 May**  
Half-term Holiday

**Mon 1 Jun**  
Students return to school



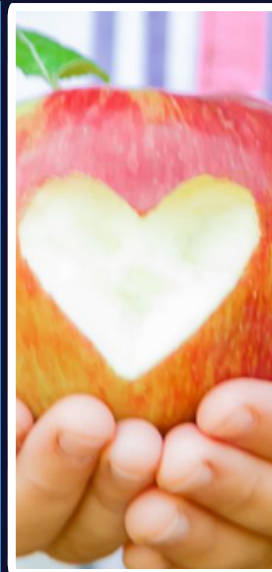
## Free School Meals

Many families are eligible for Free School Meals but don't realise it. Applying is quick, confidential and could make a real difference.

- Your child could get free, nutritious meals at school
- School receives extra funding to support your child's learning
- Even if your child doesn't eat school meals, eligibility still helps the school

If you are on Universal Credit or other qualifying benefits, please check your eligibility today. It takes just a few minutes and helps us support your child better.

For any families who need additional support the Citizens Advice Bureau are available on the following link: <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/> For term time queries about free school meals, please contact [fsm@bcpcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:fsm@bcpcouncil.gov.uk)



# Events

## Summer PE Kit Reminder

As we move into the summer term, please ensure your child comes to school prepared with the correct PE kit.

A quick reminder of our expectations:

- White ankle socks (please note: blue socks are not permitted)
- Supportive trainers (no high-top styles)
- Hair tied back – long hair must be securely tied back for all pupils, including boys
- Sunny days – children may bring drinks in plastic water bottles

Thank you for your support in helping pupils stay safe, comfortable and ready to participate fully in PE lessons.



## Poole Piranhas

Over the Summer term, through popular demand, Poole Piranhas Basketball Club will again be offering weekly basketball at Poole High School. There are a limited number of spaces still available.

Sessions will run for around 1hr - from 3.05pm-4.05pm on Tuesdays - from 21st April until 30th June. There will be no session 26th May due to half term. This offer is open to Years 7, 8, and 9 (KS3). Sessions are fully coach lead by Piranhas coaches and include drills and skills followed by matches towards the end. The cost is £50 for the 10 weeks, payable via bank transfer.

Please click on the link below to register your child's interest  
[Poole Piranhas Basketball Club](#)



## Gold Duke of Edinburgh

At the end of the spring term, our DofE Gold students set off for the breathtaking Brecon Beacons for their practice expedition. With stunning panoramic views and glorious weather on their side, they embraced every challenge with incredible teamwork and collaboration. The laughter, shared moments, and sense of achievement made it an unforgettable experience—one that will stay with them for a lifetime.



## Poole Town Football Club

Poole Town FC are delighted to invite students and families to attend the final home game of the season on Saturday 18th April 2026, where they will face Havant & Waterlooville 3pm kick off. This Family Voucher entitles up to four people to attend the match (2 adults and 2 children, or 1 adult and 3 children) free of charge. Please click on this [link](#) to print a voucher which must be presented on the gate. Poole Town FC hope you can join them!

# Events

## Guest Speaker Ginette Oliver

We were delighted to welcome Ginette Oliver to speak with our TASS athletes. Ginette delivered an inspiring and insightful talk focused on building resilience, overcoming setbacks, and managing the challenges of injury in sport. Her expertise as a sports psychologist provided our students with valuable strategies to strengthen their mindset and support both their performance and wellbeing. We are also pleased to share that she has kindly donated a copy of her work to our school library for students to access and continue their learning.

**RAISING  
RESILIENCE**



## Kite Surfing

We were incredibly lucky to welcome the British Kite Sports Association to Poole High for two action-packed days at the end of February. Their team of brilliant instructors delivered fun, engaging sessions featuring wings, kites and more, giving students a fantastic introduction to the world of kite sports.

It was amazing to see students from Years 7–10 throwing themselves into the experience with enthusiasm and big smiles throughout. A real highlight was watching the power of a full-size kite in action, as one of the instructors treated us to an impressive demonstration, performing high jumps and lightning-fast turns.

It's been wonderful to hear how many students are keen to explore kite sports beyond school. We hope to welcome them back again soon so that even more students can have the opportunity to take part and have a go. For more information, visit the British Kite Sports Association website <https://britishkitesports.org/about/> or follow @britishkitesport on social media.



## Hotel du Vin

Hotel du Vin has introduced hundreds of students at Poole High School to the hospitality industry through a series of engaging sessions. The team delivered two assemblies reaching around 600 students, talking about different career paths in hospitality and sharing their own experiences working in the sector. They later returned to the school with three managers and three chefs to run practical sessions focused on catering and event management. Students were challenged to plan their own event using a set budget and client brief before pitching their ideas. At the same time, 60 students took part in a two-hour cookery sessions, preparing Chicken Chasseur with Pomme Puree and Jus after watching a demonstration from the chefs. These partnerships built through the BH Area Association, help students explore the many different career paths available in hospitality.



# Events



## Chewton Glen Visit

Our Year 12 and Year 13 Food students had the opportunity to visit the Chewton Glen Hotel & Spa for an inspiring insight into hospitality.

Students attended a presentation exploring careers within the hospitality industry, gaining knowledge about pathways into roles such as chefing, hotel management, events, and guest services. They then enjoyed a behind-the-scenes tour of the hotel's professional kitchens, seeing first-hand how food is prepared and presented to exceptional commercial standards.

The visit also included a tour of the hotel's unique treehouse accommodation, giving students insight into luxury hospitality and the importance of guest experience and attention to detail. To conclude the trip, students enjoyed lunch, further enhancing their understanding of presentation, service, and quality in a real-world environment.

We are grateful to the team at Chewton Glen for hosting us. Opportunities like this help students connect classroom learning with future career possibilities in hospitality and develop confidence, ambition, and understanding through real industry exposure, first-hand experiences overall.



## British Rowing Coach

British Rowing coach Lucy Hart visited the school to run an exciting talent identification session for our students. The event was a great success, with students thoroughly enjoying the opportunity to test their skills and learn more about the sport. It was fantastic to see such enthusiasm, and several students were identified as having strong potential to progress to the next stage of the programme.

For anyone interested in trying rowing, British Rowing are offering a free Learn to Row course at Studland on 30th and 31st March. This is a great opportunity for beginners to get involved and experience the sport.

Students who would like more information should please see Mrs Wilkins for further details.



## Samba Workshop

We were delighted to welcome an exciting Samba Drumming workshop for our Year 7 students, made possible through our funding from Soundstorm, our Music Hub partner.

The workshop was led by Graeme Thew, an experienced specialist in Samba and percussion. Students were introduced to the vibrant world of Brazilian rhythms and had the opportunity to learn how different percussion instruments work together to create the rich, energetic sound that Samba is famous for.

A particular highlight of the session was the chance to play on our new professional Samba kit, which we have on long-term loan from Soundstorm. The impact of hearing the full ensemble play together was truly impressive — the sound filled the space with energy and excitement!

All students who took part showed fantastic enthusiasm, teamwork and creativity. They thoroughly enjoyed experimenting with different instruments and developing their own rhythmic patterns as a group.

It was a wonderful musical experience for our Year 7 cohort and a fantastic celebration of collaborative music-making.



# Personal Development Day



## Overview

Thursday 12 March students embraced another Personal Development Day with enthusiasm and vigour.

A number of in- school sessions, external visitors and offsite activities allowed our students to embrace experiences and enhance their life skills, which we recognise, work in close partnership with academic knowledge.

Poole Pirates brought an element of excitement to our Year 7 students with their visit, whilst the Year 7,8,9 Interhouse Capture the Flag event was a great success, bringing students together for a lesson of strategy, and fun.

The Year 9 Addiction Workshop supported and consolidated PSHE lessons, highlighting the risks and consequences of addiction. Students had workshops delivered by PACE who brought guests to share their personal stories.

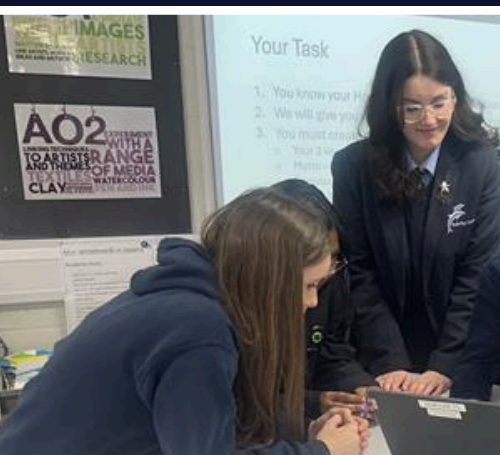
We continue our ongoing journey building students' confidence communicating and expressing themselves via Oracy sessions, providing them with the tools to strive beyond the world of education and prepare them for their future chosen paths.

Year 10 and Year 12 students headed to the Careers and Apprenticeship Show at Bournemouth's International Centre. This was a fantastic opportunity for our students to meet employers and organisations from across a wide variety of sectors, whilst our Year 12 HSBC finance sessions focused on "Budgeting" and "Financial Planning".

More information about the Personal Development Day and events can be found on the corresponding Year Group newsletters.

A great day was had by all and we look forward to the next!

Sarah Carroll



# Events

## Upcoming Educational Trips

Get ready for adventure! Poole High School is thrilled to offer an incredible programme of trips from 2026 to 2028, giving students the chance to explore the world, build confidence and create unforgettable memories beyond the classroom.

In Easter 2027, students in Years 9–12 can embark on an awe-inspiring journey to Iceland, discovering breathtaking waterfalls, glaciers, erupting geysers and the vibrant capital city of Reykjavík (approx. £1,050).

In May 2027, Year 8 and 9 students will walk through history on the France & Belgium Battlefields Tour, visiting powerful First World War landmarks including Thiepval Memorial, Lochnagar Crater and experiencing the unforgettable Menin Gate Ceremony (approx. £600).

For our younger students, current Year 7 pupils can dive into an action-packed Outdoor Activity Residential in July 2027 (approx. £400), packed with challenges, teamwork and fun. Meanwhile, girls in Years 7–10 can sharpen their skills and team spirit at the Netball and Girls' Football Residential in March 2027 (approx. £320).

Looking ahead, excitement continues with the Austria Ski Trip in February 2028 for current Years 7 and 8—perfect for both beginners and experienced skiers. Then, in October 2028, current Years 8–11 can experience the energy of New York City, exploring world-famous landmarks and soaking up its unique culture (approx. £2,200).

We are also delighted to offer a Normandy 2027 trip for Years 8, 9 and 12 (approx. £450), featuring charming French markets, hands-on patisserie workshops and a thrilling visit to Festyland theme park.

These trips are more than just visits—they are opportunities to discover new places, develop independence and make lifelong friendships. Don't miss out on these amazing experiences!



## Normandy - Château du Baffy 2027

Students travelling as Years 8, 9 and 12 are invited to take part in this exciting trip, costing approximately £450. A deposit is due in November, followed by two further payments in February and March. Highlights include a visit to a traditional French market, a patisserie tour with tasting and hands-on baking, a day at Festyland theme park, and relaxing firepit evenings.

## Netball and Girls Football Residential - March 2027

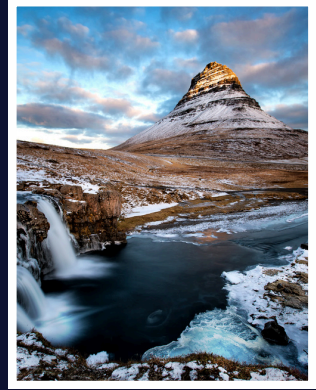
Students in current Years 6–9 (travelling as Years 7–10) are invited on an action-packed residential adventure for around £320, payable in four £80 instalments. The all-inclusive trip covers transport, insurance, two nights' accommodation, full-board meals, expert-led activities, equipment, and a commemorative hoodie. Over the weekend, students can compete in a netball tournament or girls' football training against other schools, plus enjoy thrilling challenges like abseiling, archery, high ropes, giant swing, and zip wire. Evenings feature a silent disco to relax and celebrate. A perfect mix of sport, adventure, and unforgettable memories!



# Upcoming Trips

## Iceland - Easter 2027

Students in current Years 9, 10, 11 and 12—particularly those studying GCSE or A-Level Geography—are invited to join an exciting trip estimated at £1,050. A £400 deposit is due in May 2026, with the remaining balance payable in instalments. The trip includes flights, coach transfers, full-board accommodation, and a professional guide, with highlights such as the Reykjanes Peninsula, dramatic waterfalls, glaciers, black sand beaches, geysers, Gullfoss, Thingvellir, and time to explore Reykjavík.

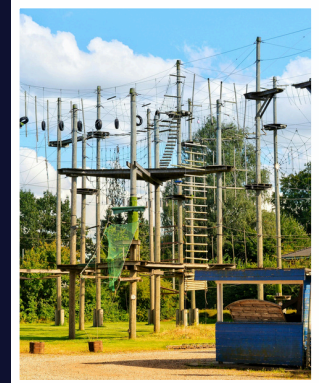


## France & Belgium Battlefields - May 2027

Students in current Years 7 and 8 (Years 8 and 9 at the time of travel) are invited to take part in a 4-day, 3-night trip costing approximately £600. This enriching experience includes visits to key historical sites such as the Ulster Tower, Wellington Quarry, WW1 cemeteries, Lochnagar Crater, Passchendaele Museum, the Menin Gate Ceremony, and Thiepval Memorial, alongside an artefacts workshop and activities at Le Château. Students will also enjoy a visit to the Leonidas Chocolate Shop and a fun day at Bellewaerde Theme Park.

## Outdoor Activity Residential - July 2027

Students in current Year 7 are invited to take part in an exciting residential trip with PGL, costing £400, with a deposit due in May 2026 and the remaining balance payable before April 2027. This experience is designed to build confidence, independence and teamwork beyond the classroom, with activities including archery, abseiling, high ropes, giant swing, raft building, zip wire and a silent disco. The price includes accommodation, meals, all day and evening activities, coach transfers and insurance.



## Austria Ski - February 2028

Students currently in Years 7 and 8 (who will be in Years 9 and 10 at the time of travel) are invited to join an exciting ski trip, with costs to be confirmed. Payments will begin in June 2026 and continue monthly. The trip includes flights and transfers, five full days of skiing with daily instruction, equipment hire, full-board accommodation, and a range of fun evening activities.

## New York - October 2028

Students in current Years 9, 10 and 11 (with Year 11 students planning to join Poole High Sixth Form) are invited to take part in an exciting trip, priced at approximately £2,200. Payments will begin in June 2026, with a £250 deposit followed by monthly instalments through to June 2027. This unforgettable experience includes highlights such as Top of the Rock at night, a Grand Central Station tour, a Broadway show, visits to The MoMA, One World Observatory, Liberty and Ellis Islands, and the United Nations HQ, along with time in Central Park, shopping on Fifth Avenue, evening meals at iconic restaurants, and a commemorative trip hoodie.

