



# Poole High News Spring 2

February 2026

Dear Families,

Welcome back to you all as we begin the second half of the school year.



Spring 1 was a busy and rewarding term for our students, as you will see from the photographs below. I was particularly proud of the enthusiasm and maturity shown during our whole-school Personal Development Day. Opportunities like this are central to our vision for students at Poole High School. At the end of this newsletter please take the time to read some of the incredible feedback we received from visitors about our fabulous students.

This year, we have placed a strong focus on helping our students recognise their own self-worth and develop ambition for their futures. This work spans many areas, from exploring future education and career pathways to understanding how to maintain positive mental health and wellbeing.

One of the most significant influences on children's wellbeing today is the role of smartphones and social media in their daily lives. The government is currently consulting on teenage access to social media and has made clear their expectation, that schools should be mobile phone free for students during the school day. As a school, we are carefully reviewing our current mobile phone policy and practices to ensure we are making decisions that best support our students' learning, wellbeing and safety.

As part of this process, I would greatly value your views. We are seeking feedback from parents, students, staff and governors to help us determine the right approach for our school community. Please could I ask you to complete the survey linked below by Wednesday 4th March so that your perspective can be fully considered.

Finally, thank you for the many kind messages I have received following my appointment as Headteacher of Poole High School. I genuinely believe this is a very special school and feel incredibly proud to lead such a dedicated and talented staff team. I look forward to working in partnership with you as your children continue their journey through our school. While there may be occasions when we do not always agree, what unites us is our shared commitment to caring for your children and providing the very best opportunities and futures for them.

With best wishes,  
Sian Phillips  
Headteacher



# Notices

## Attendance

The importance of being on time, how parents and carers can help

We are asking for your help to stop the gradual increase we are seeing around lateness, this ranges from arriving on time in the morning, to arriving to lessons or music lessons on time.

Here are a few tips to remind us all of the small things that make a difference, we are practising these with our own families too:

- Establish a consistent morning routine
- Prepare bags, uniform, and equipment the night before
- Allow extra time for travel, parking, or unexpected delays
- Encourage students to understand the value of being on time
- Model good punctuality in daily life

By supporting strong morning routines and encouraging students to move promptly between lessons, families help ensure every student can make the most of each learning opportunity. Thank you for working with us to give all students the best possible start.

## Smartphone Consultation

Please use this link to tell us your views on smartphones and their use in schools. [Click me for consultation.](#)

The consultation will close on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2026.

## Important Dates

**Mon 23 Feb - Fri 6 March**

Year 11 Mock GCSE Exams

**Thu 26 February**

Year 9 GCSE Options Evening

**Wed 4 March**

Year 12 Bath University Trip

**Thu 5 March**

Year 12 Parents Evening

**Fri 13 March**

Whole School Personal  
Development Day

**Thu 19 March**

Sixth Form Mental Health  
Schools Evening

**Mon 23- Fri 27 March**

Year 12 Progression Exams

**Thu 26 March**

Year 10 Parents Evening

**Fri 27 March**

Last day of Term

## Parking

We appreciate the challenges of parking near the school site, and work closely with the local bus company to support buses coming onto the school site to safely collect the students. Additionally we are proud to support students cycling and walking safely to school and were thrilled that Bikeability are now able to offer courses through us to promote safe travel.

Where some students are brought to school by car, please be mindful of the impact this can have on our local community. There has been an increase in concerns being logged with the school regarding inconsiderate parking and dropping off. This is not only difficult for local residents, but also a safety concern for our children travelling to school on foot or bicycle. In particular, please ensure you do not stop your car in a cycle lane.

We do ask you to only travel by car if there is no other option, and to do so with the safety of everyone in mind, With many thanks.



# Around the School

## Music Lessons

Would your child like to learn an instrument or take singing lessons?

Students can enjoy individual music lessons on a wide range of instruments, including guitar, drums, piano, singing, violin, trumpet, saxophone, flute, and more. Lessons are delivered by our highly skilled Peripatetic Music Team.

For further information and to apply for lessons in the Summer term, please complete the application form using the link below applications will close on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2026.

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

If you have any questions, please contact the Head of Music at: [headofmusic@poolehigh.poole.sch.uk](mailto:headofmusic@poolehigh.poole.sch.uk)

## Peri Music Teacher



Mr Shearing has been teaching acoustic and electric guitar at Poole High for the past ten years, but he started playing when he was just four years old. He decided that he wanted a career in music after hearing bands such as The Beatles and seeing where music had taken them.

When not teaching at Poole High, Mr Shearing plays with various bands and works on accompanying shows and musicians. He has collaborated with well-known artists, including the guitarist from The Prodigy and Tom Jones' guitarist, as well as projects such as accompanying finalists from The Voice.

He enjoys the combination of teaching and performing and finds that both complement each other.

## Music Within The School

There have been lots of exciting activities happening in the music block over the past half term. Students have been enjoying our new Samba drums, generously received from Soundstorm.

The ongoing success of the guitar club, the music hub, and a wide range of instrumental lessons continues to build creativity, confidence, and a love of music across the school.

Guitar club runs every Wednesday from 3:00-4:00 pm.



## Table Cricket Event

At the start of February, Mr Allard and Mr Keep were lucky enough to take 14 students from Years 7-11 to a Table Cricket event. Our students were absolutely amazing and represented the school fantastically throughout the day.

Poole High's Team A finished second, losing the final by just six runs, while Poole High's Team 1 placed third overall. A particular highlight was receiving a comment from a member of staff at another school, who praised our students for how kind, gentle, and supportive they were when playing against their team.



# Events

## Year 7 County Cup

In January, our Year 7 team took part in an exciting second-round fixture in the County Cup, delivering a performance full of determination, resilience, and teamwork. Facing a strong Gillingham side, the boys showed tremendous character to fight back from 2-0 down in what proved to be an intense and closely contested match. After a hard-fought contest that was closely balanced throughout, the game was decided by penalties. Under immense pressure, Poole High demonstrated outstanding composure and skill, holding their nerve to secure a well-deserved victory. Every player contributed to a fantastic team effort, with special recognition going to Eli (CB) and Freddie (GK), who both produced exceptional performances and were deservedly named Players of the Match.

A huge congratulations to the entire squad for an excellent result.



## Year 7 Spelling Bee

The thrilling final of the Poole High School Year 7 Spelling Bee took place on January 13<sup>th</sup> 2026. Students were tasked with memorising 50 of the most common and most difficult words to spell from their subjects. Words from History such as parliament, and from Maths, such as rhombus. The 27 students, who made it to the final after heats in the classroom, had clearly worked very hard at memorising these difficult words. The excitement built as many knock out rounds took place, as students had clearly memorised all 50 words. At the end we were left with four finalists Deon, Soniia, Sophie and Henry, who will all receive certificates and have the opportunity to go head to head at a later date!



## Equal Access Trophy 2025

Poole High School has received the Equal Access Schools Award for our commitment to giving girls equal opportunities in football. Barclays Girls' Football in Schools by England Football (BGFS) is a nationwide scheme that aims to mainstream football in schools for girls. Supported by the Youth Sport Trust the initiative creates a network of BGFS each with a dedicated education expert with knowledge and understanding of education and girls' football in their local area. James Cutler from Dorset FA, presented the trophy to Mrs Wilkins, Head of Health and Fitness and Mr Brown, SGO and Girls' Football Development Officer. Our Girls' Football Ambassadors, Poppy and Miley, proudly accepted the trophy on behalf of our growing girls' football community, celebrating the hard work and enthusiasm of all our students.



## Paired Reading

Every Thursday, our library comes alive as KS3 and KS5 students come together to read, learn and grow. Through shared reading sessions, KS3 students build confidence, improve fluency and develop deeper comprehension skills. At the same time, KS5 students take on inspiring leadership roles, honing their mentoring abilities while gaining valuable experience and evidence for their UCAS applications. It's a brilliant example of students supporting students and a wonderful celebration of the joy of reading within our school community.



# Events

## Year 13 Road Safety Day

Year 13 students recently took part in a Road Safety Day, where a range of visiting professionals delivered important and engaging sessions. Representatives from Dorset Police, Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service, BCP Council and Kwik Fit spoke to students about key issues including cycle safety, the dangers of peer pressure, the impact of distractions and reaction times when drink driving, and the serious consequences of unsafe choices on the road. Students also learned about essential vehicle checks, car safety, maintenance and tyre wear. The day provided valuable, real-life insights to help our students stay safe and make responsible decisions as they become more independent road users.



## Headteacher Reward Breakfast

Our recent Headteacher Rewards Breakfast events were a truly uplifting celebration of the exceptional character our students show each and every day. The event recognised those who have gone above and beyond, demonstrating empathy and kindness and consistently showing care, compassion and respect within our school community.

Students were warmly congratulated by Mrs Phillips, who praised them for being such positive role models and for setting a powerful example to their peers. Their thoughtful actions and everyday acts of kindness do not go unnoticed, and this event was a chance to shine a well deserved spotlight on their achievements.

The morning was filled with smiles and laughter as students decorated gingerbread men together, adding a creative and joyful touch to the celebration. It was a heart-warming occasion that perfectly reflected the spirit of togetherness and pride that runs through our school.

We are incredibly proud of the compassion, maturity and integrity our students continue to demonstrate; they truly make our community a special place to be.



# Personal Development Days

## Year 10 & Year 12 Interview Skills

Our recent Personal Development Days were all about helping students get future-ready—equipping them with the skills, confidence, and mindset they'll need for their next steps in education or employment. The focus was on three powerful characteristics: curiosity, effort, and reflection.

Year 12 students stepped into the role of interviewers, receiving training in the key techniques for conducting effective, professional interviews. They put these skills into action by interviewing Year 10 students, honing clear communication, active listening, positive body language, and the art of asking thoughtful follow-up questions.

Afterwards, Year 12 students reflected on their own performance, identifying strengths and areas for development - excellent preparation for the real-world interviews that lie ahead. They also provided constructive feedback to the Year 10 students, creating a valuable learning experience for both year groups.

Student feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with many highlighting the confidence they gained from the process. A fantastic effort all round, well done to everyone involved!



## Year 8 House Competitions

House competitions are underway as students engage in a range of activities throughout the year to score points. We are seeking to develop the characteristics of resilience, teamwork, determination, kindness, curiosity, enthusiasm, and empathy. The challenges are focused in four areas: a creative challenge, problem-solving, a physical competition, and a cultural quiz.

The creative challenge saw students design and build the most creative free-standing structure possible using only paper and masking tape! Their designs were inspired by the unique architecture of some of the world's most amazing art galleries, combining imagination with problem-solving and teamwork. Each team then named their building and created an eye-catching logo to bring their vision to life.

## Across The School

In addition to the exciting activities already described, our students have also been taking time to engage with some deeply important life skills. Through thoughtful discussion and reflection, they have explored topics such as equality, anti-bullying, hate crime, online habits, risk, and the law—supporting them to better understand themselves, others, and the responsibilities they carry both in and beyond school.

The History Department provided high-quality resources to support students and staff in preparing for Holocaust Memorial Day, encouraging careful reflection, empathy, and a deeper understanding of the past and its relevance today. Alongside this, guest speakers offered Year 10 students inspiring insights into RSPB Arne, possible careers in conservation, and practical guidance on staying safe and making informed choices.

Year 12 focused on Money Sense, an essential topic in today's world, as they develop independence and learn to manage their finances in a tricky economic climate. Year 10 and Year 11 also had tailored sessions on effective revision techniques, alongside tips for looking after their mental and physical wellbeing during these important academic moments.

Our students are not just learning—they're thinking, reflecting, and preparing for life beyond the classroom!



# Personal Development Days

## Year 9 STEM Workshops

Science, technology, engineering and maths open the door to a world of careers, from aviation engineering and environmental sustainability to healthcare and medicine. These sectors are vast, with an even greater number of roles available. Our Year 9 students took part in a variety of workshops to discover how their curriculum learning is applied in the world of work.

Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council delivered sessions on recycling, exploring sustainability and identifying which products were and were not recyclable. Students considered the impact of recycling and upcycling, as well as the importance of reducing packaging. Job roles highlighted included careers in local government, recycling operatives and e-waste technicians.

A Maths Roadshow, courtesy of A Star Learning, provided a collection of fun, hands-on activities focused on problem-solving. These sessions prompted discussion, insight and solution-finding, while promoting maths for all and demonstrating how mathematics is used across a wide range of job roles.

Health Sciences University engaged students through a range of interactive activities, including engineering spaghetti towers, measuring grip strength and reflexes, identifying bones in a box, X-ray imaging and emergency imagery. These activities highlighted key skills such as decision-making, prioritisation and communication.

Local Careers Enterprise Coordinator Michelle Pickard then spoke to students about soft skills, interview techniques and links to careers. This was followed by an opportunity for students to hear first-hand experiences from university students in attendance.



## Year 7 Enterprise Guests

Our Year 7 students had their first taste of work experience thanks to Dorset Young Enterprise. The day was jam-packed with tasks, teamwork, presentations and feedback, alongside talks from local business volunteers who shared their personal career journeys. Volunteers included staff from JPMorgan and MUFG, an IT and Communications Specialist, and two entrepreneurs and founders from Mountain Peaking Consulting and Coda.

Working within teams, students took on roles in Events, Marketing, Finance or Product Development to launch a new business. They identified their personal skills and strengths before creating a presentation to pitch to the volunteers. Communication, teamwork, resilience, organisation, financial capability, and initiative were among the employability traits developed throughout the day, culminating in an awards event. Two teams were awarded the overall title of New Business of the Year across the two days.

Year 7 made us incredibly proud. Feedback from volunteers highlighted just how impressive the students were:

*"Simply outstanding. It was so encouraging to see the teamwork, effort, fun and urgency the student teams showed – brilliant. Their willingness to try, with no fear, was so refreshing to see."*

*"Personally speaking, the students were the absolute stars of the two days. Attitude, commitment, engagement, effort, manners and courtesy – simply refreshing to observe and experience. WOW – what an absolute joy to witness. The school should be congratulated on the standards they are achieving here."*

*"School staff were clearly attentive to student behaviour, conduct and attitude in a very proactive way. Their engagement with the students, assisting and encouraging at various stages over the two days, was great to see. School leadership should be extremely proud of both the students and the staff involved."*

*"This event has been one of the genuine highlights of my school and student engagements with Young Enterprise. The two days showed me that some schools truly invest in their students' personal development."*

*"The school sets the standard for student engagement in personal development. They deserve recognition for all they do for their students, the school and their work with Young Enterprise."*

## APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN FOR **JUNIOR BAKE OFF**

Aged between 9-15 and love to bake?  
We'd love to hear from you!

[WWW.APPLYFORJUNIORBAKEOFF.CO.UK](http://WWW.APPLYFORJUNIORBAKEOFF.CO.UK)



APPLICATIONS CLOSE 15TH MARCH 2026



Tuesdays | 4-5 pm

### PADEL SQUAD (BEGINNERS)

New to padel? Learn the fundamentals in a fun, supportive environment.

Saturdays | 9-10am

### PADEL ACADEMY (IMPROVERS)

Played other racket sports before? Got an eye for a ball? This class will be for you!

⚠️ Up to 12 spaces available per class — book fast!

## REGISTER YOUR INTEREST NOW AND WHERE TO FIND US

☎️ 07533 319253

✉️ [rdssportscoaching@gmail.com](mailto:rdssportscoaching@gmail.com)

Salterns Rd, Poole BH14 8BL

## FREE TASTERS AVAILABLE (FIRST COME, FIRST SERVE)

TUESDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2026 – PADEL SQUAD (BEGINNERS)

SATURDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2026 – PADEL ACADEMY (IMPROVERS)

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# DROP-IN

## SUPPORT SESSION

For young people aged 11-19

Whether you're looking for practical advice, helpful information, or simply someone to listen, we're here to support you every step of the way.

Our goal is to provide a safe and welcoming space where you can find guidance, share your concerns, and feel understood. Whatever you need, we're committed to helping you navigate challenges and access the right resources

- ✔️ Sexual Health & Relationships
- ✔️ FREE Condoms with the C-Card Scheme
- ✔️ Jobs & Training
- ✔️ Personal Development and more...

MONDAYS 3:00 - 6:30pm



Poole Youth Access Point  
(18 Hill Street, BH15 1NR)

No appointment needed, just drop in!  
Let's talk - Let's grow - Let's thrive

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