



Poole High News Summer 2

June 2026

Dear Families,

Welcome back for our final half-term of the year. We return at the midpoint of the exam season, and I would like to extend a huge well done to all of our students who are working so hard in their preparation and revision. Your dedication and resilience are commendable, and we are very proud of you.



Over the holiday period, we were pleased to begin several important site projects, including the development of our new student welfare offices and a new toilet block. These improvements will be completed in time for our return in September. While work is ongoing, this area of the school will remain off-limits to students. It has been carefully secured and clearly signposted to ensure everyone's safety. My sincere thanks go to our Operations Team for their continued efforts to enhance our school environment.

The Leadership Team has also been reflecting on our vision for education at Poole High School, particularly our role in supporting students alongside partner organisations, including those in health, welfare and safeguarding. This work is essential, and we continue to invest significantly in student well being, as we want every young person in our care to be healthy, happy and thriving.

At the same time, we remain firmly committed to our core purpose as educators, we don't share this role with partner agencies, we share this responsibility with you, as parents and carers. With this in mind, I would like to invite you to share your views with me so that, together, we can shape a shared vision for the future of our school. Our survey will remain open for your contributions until Friday, 12th June. I very much look forward to hearing your thoughts. Please click on the link below to complete.

[Poole High School: A shared vision for the future survey](#)

I have also been spending time speaking directly with students, listening to their views on education, future aspirations, and interests beyond school, as well as important issues such as behaviour and bullying. It has been a privilege to hear their perspectives. I have also had the pleasure of attending a number of trips and activities, where students have been able to engage with subjects they feel passionate about. This has given a valuable perspective to the work we are doing.

I look forward to sharing the results with you shortly,

Sian Phillips, Headteacher



Notices

Important Dates

Mon 1 June - Fri 12 June Bikeability

Mon 15 June - Fri 19 June Year 10 Work Experience

Thu 18 June - Year 7, 8, 9 and 12 Charity Sandwalk & UCAS Information Evening

Wed 24 June - Year 13 Prom

Thu 25 June - Year 11 Prom

Fri 26 June - Year 11 Leavers' Assembly

Mon 29 June - Year 9 Dorset Adventure Park Trip

Tues 30 June- Year 7 Paulton's Park Trip & Year 10 Thorpe Park Trip, VI Form Aspirations Day

Thu 2 July - Personal Development Day & Open Evening. School closes at 12:30pm

Fri 3 July - Inset Day School closed

Fri 10 July - Sports Day

Tue 14 July - Year 12 Challenge Day & PHS Awards Evening

Wed 15 July- Year 9 Marwell Zoo Trip

Fri 17 July - School closes at 12:30pm

Support for parents

FACE is offering access to three courses for £6.99 per month:

Building Emotional Resilience – work through six stages of guided exercises designed to help your child build emotional resilience.

Facing Defiance – a targeted strategy programme supporting parents of children aged 5–12 with ADHD, ODD, or other challenging behaviours.

You & Your Teen – a skills-based course for parents and teens to work together on improving communication.



Summer PE Kit

Just a reminder to please check your child's timetable and ensure that they bring their PE kit on the correct days. We are currently seeing a significant increase in the number of pupils forgetting their kit, which can impact their participation in lessons and activities. Please ensure they have white socks to change in to.

Aspens Food Survey

Aspens Food would like to gather feedback from pupils at our school so they can continue to improve the catering service provided for students. Pupil views are greatly appreciated and will help shape future improvements. Please take a few moments to complete the short survey using the link :[Aspens Food Pupil Survey](#). Thank you for your support.

Student Balances

We are pleased to inform you that a balance-checking device has been installed near the entrance to the canteen. This enables students to conveniently view the current balance on their fobs and access up-to-date account information.



Summer is coming!



As we approach the summer holidays, over this half-term we will be using assemblies and tutor times to revisit key messages with students about staying safe, showing respect, and enjoying the independence that comes with living in our beautiful local area. These sessions are designed as helpful reminders, giving students practical guidance as they spend more time with friends, particularly at the beach, and travelling independently. We know that these messages are most impactful when they are reinforced through open, supportive conversations at home. Below is a summary of the themes we will be covering, alongside simple ways you might choose to continue these conversations with your child.

	We will be:	At home you can support by:
	<p>Beach Safety: Reminding students how to enjoy our beaches safely, including swimming in supervised areas, understanding tides, ensuring that they respect the sea, and looking out for one another.</p>	<p>Asking what they already know about beach safety, who they plan to be with, and what they would do if something didn't feel right. Keeping the conversation open and curious can help reinforce expectations</p>
	<p>Rail Safety: Revisit key rail and travel safety messages, including staying behind the platform line, remaining alert, and avoiding risks near tracks.</p>	<p>Talking through journeys they may be planning, including how they would manage delays or changes, helping them feel prepared and confident.</p>
	<p>Respect in the Community: Reinforce the importance of respecting our community, including other people, public spaces, and the local environment during the busy summer period.</p>	<p>Reflecting together on what respectful behaviour looks like when out with friends, and encouraging pride in contributing positively to the local area.</p>
	<p>Peer influence: Explore how to make safe decisions with friends and navigate peer influence. How they can remove themselves from risky situations.</p>	<p>Discussing how they might recognise when something doesn't feel right and what steps they could take. Reassuring them they can always check in with you can make a big difference.</p>
	<p>Being prepared: Emphasise that independence and safety go hand in hand, including planning ahead, staying connected, and looking out for others.</p>	<p>Agreeing simple ways to stay in touch, sharing plans, and having a shared understanding about timings to support both independence and peace of mind.</p>

By working together in this way, we can help ensure that students feel confident to enjoy everything our local area has to offer while staying safe and respectful. Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Vicki Stillman Deputy Headteacher

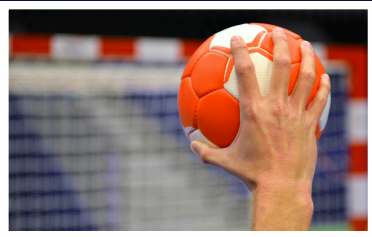
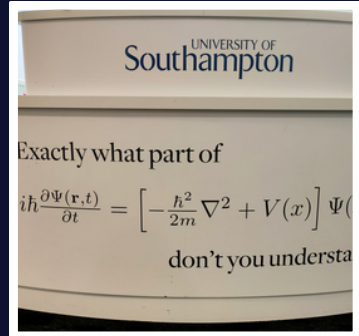
Events

Sixth Form Maths

A group of our Year 12 A Level Maths students recently attended a Maths Enrichment Day at the University of Southampton. The event provided a fantastic opportunity for students to explore future pathways in mathematics, including potential careers, problem-solving techniques, and insights into university entrance exams.

Throughout the day, students also took part in a Q&A speed networking session with current Maths undergraduates, giving them valuable first-hand perspectives on studying mathematics at degree level.

Our students were highly engaged in all activities and represented Poole High School exceptionally well. Mrs Marchant and the group also had the special opportunity to meet one of Miss Melvin-Smith's favourite university lecturers, who continues to teach at Southampton—an exciting highlight of the day.



Year 8 PEDSSA Handball

Our Year 8 handball teams delivered an outstanding performance at this year's PEDSSA tournament, securing both 1st and 2nd place in a dominant display of skill, teamwork and determination.

Throughout the competition, both teams demonstrated excellent tactical awareness, fast-paced attacking play and impressive defensive organisation. Their commitment and positive attitude were evident in every match, and they represented the school with great pride.

This remarkable achievement is a testament to their hard work and dedication—well done to all involved!

Year 7 & 8 Maths Challenge

This half-term, it was the turn of our younger pupils to take part in a UK Mathematics Trust Maths Challenge. A total of 106 pupils from Years 7 and 8 entered the Junior Maths Challenge, many for the first time. The competition is an excellent test of problem-solving ability under timed conditions. We are delighted that nearly 50% of participants achieved a Bronze, Silver or Gold award. In addition, four pupils — Bertie, Liliana, Zsombor and Jace — have secured places in the next round: the Junior Kangaroo. Congratulations to them all!

These are fantastic results, and everyone who took part should feel extremely proud of their achievement in this national competition. Participating in a UKMT challenge is a valuable achievement that pupils can include on future applications and CVs. We also enter pupils into the Intermediate (Years 9 and 10) and Senior (Years 12 and 13) Challenges, so there will be many more opportunities as students continue their maths journey at Poole High School.



Events

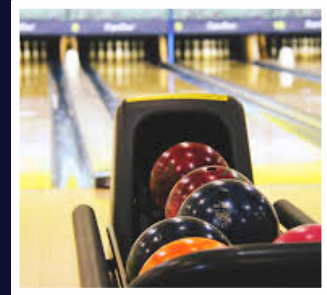
Bowling Festival

We are delighted to share some fantastic news from the recent PEDSSA Bowling competition.

One of our two Poole High teams achieved an outstanding result, finishing in 1st place among a large number of participating schools. Congratulations to Jimmy, Skye, Theo, and Candice on this brilliant accomplishment. A special mention goes to Jimmy and Skye, who each received individual awards for scoring over 100—an excellent achievement.

Our second team also performed very well, finishing around the middle of the rankings. Well done to Grace, Alice, Milo, Harrison, and Fin for their great effort and teamwork.

All students thoroughly enjoyed the event and were proud to receive their stickers, certificates, medals, and trophy. We are incredibly proud of everyone who took part and represented the school so positively.



Year 10 PEDSSA Cup Battle

The PEDSSA Cup Final brought together two strong and well-prepared sides, Poole High and Poole Grammar, setting the stage for an entertaining and competitive contest at the County Ground.

The match began at a lively tempo, with Poole High making the brighter start and taking an early lead through a well-worked goal. Their positive opening was met with a strong response from Poole Grammar, who grew into the game and showed their quality with two goals before half-time to take a 2–1 lead into the break.

The second half continued in the same competitive spirit, with both teams remaining committed and well organised. Poole Grammar extended their advantage with two further goals, capitalising on key moments to move ahead at 4–1. Poole High, however, continued to battle and were rewarded with a second goal, reducing the deficit to 4–2 and keeping the contest alive.

As the game entered its closing stages, Poole Grammar added a fifth goal to secure a 5–2 victory and cap an impressive performance, building on their recent county cup success.

Despite the result, both teams demonstrated excellent attitude, effort, and sportsmanship throughout, contributing to a final played in a great spirit. Credit must also go to the supporters from both schools, whose encouragement helped create a fitting atmosphere for the occasion.

MP Visit

We were delighted to welcome Neil Duncan-Jordan, MP for Poole, for a lively and engaging visit with our Year 12 and Year 13 Politics students.

The session quickly turned into a dynamic and wide-ranging Q&A, with students posing thoughtful, probing questions and gaining first-hand insight into the realities of political life beyond the classroom.

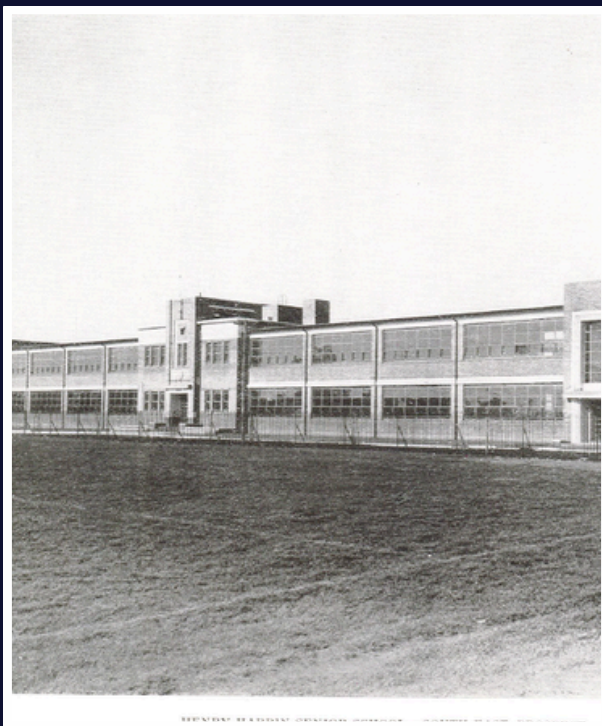
It was an inspiring and eye-opening experience, bringing their studies vividly to life and offering a rare opportunity to hear directly from someone at the heart of Parliament.



Where It All Began



HENRY HARBIN SENIOR SCHOOL—THE QUADRANGLE



HENRY HARBIN SENIOR SCHOOL—THE QUADRANGLE

A Moment in Time - from Henry Harbin to Poole High School :

Henry Harbin first opened its doors on Wednesday 3 May 1939 as a senior school, with separate departments for boys and girls, just months before the outbreak of World War II. By 1947, it had transitioned into a secondary modern school, shaping the education of local children during a time of significant change.

In the early days of the war, the school took on an extraordinary role. It temporarily closed to students and instead became a refuge, providing food and medical check-ups for evacuees. Many of these evacuees were children who had been displaced from their own schools, which were being repurposed to house soldiers. For decades, Henry Harbin served pupils aged 12 to 16, becoming a familiar and important part of the community.

In 1994, a new chapter began as the school was renamed Poole High School. With exciting developments across the site, the school began its transformation into the vibrant community our students know today.

We are incredibly proud to be part of the present chapter of Poole High's story, carrying forward a legacy shaped by generations before us.

When you step back and look at the journey as a whole, it's clear: this is more than a school's history, it's an extraordinary story still being written.



Extra-curricular

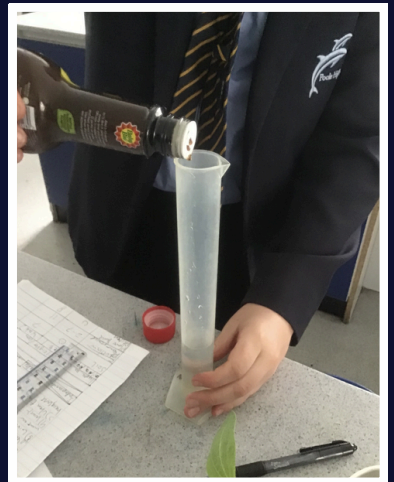
Clubs and Activities

As the warmer weather approaches, it's been fantastic to see our students making the most of the sunshine by getting involved in the wide range of outdoor extra-curricular clubs on offer. From the energy of cricket and athletics to the teamwork of volleyball, rounders and the precision of tennis, there's something for every sporty student to enjoy.

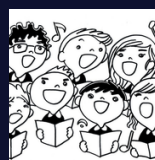
We are delighted to see so many of the boys signing up for Cooking Club! Not only are they having fun, but they're also gaining hands-on, essential life skills beyond the classroom— One thing's for sure: they definitely won't be going hungry!

It's not just the sports field and the food tech rooms that are buzzing with activity—our academic clubs such as Science club and Maths continue to thrive as popular and exciting choices, along with the GreenPower Project which is now fully under construction and taking shape!

Mrs Phillips, had the opportunity to meet up with students on their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Practice Expedition which recently took place in the Purbecks, undertaking hiking, developing teamwork and building on navigation skills. The weather may have been a little unsettled but the enthusiasm and teamwork was consistently high!



CLUBS



(N)EVER(S)TOP
LEARNING



Year 13 Leavers' Assembly 1st May

Celebrating the Class of 2026

Our Year 13 students began their secondary school journey in September 2019, stepping into a world that would change dramatically within months. Their early years were shaped by the challenges of COVID-19, periods of uncertainty, remote learning, and disrupted routines. Yet, what has defined this cohort ever since is the enthusiasm and resilience with which they embraced those challenges, emerging stronger, more adaptable, and full of character.

Over the past seven years, they have built memories that extend far beyond the classroom. From trips and enrichment activities to whole-school events, they have thrown themselves into every opportunity, demonstrating curiosity, humour, and a strong sense of community. Their journey has included a wealth of experiences designed to develop not only academic success but also confidence, ambition, and real-world awareness. Some of our students began their journey at Poole High School at the start of Year 12. Arriving as new members of the community, they quickly established themselves as integral members of the year group, forming friendships and contributing fully to the life of the school at such an important stage.

The Sixth Form years, in particular, have been rich with opportunities. Students have engaged in careers events, challenge days, charity events, and important initiatives such as Road Safety, all aimed at preparing them for life beyond school. Many have also taken part in valuable visits to leading employers, including business trips to organisations such as JP Morgan. Through these experiences, they have interacted with a wide range of professionals, gained insight into different industries, built networks, and developed the confidence to navigate their future pathways.

Their tutors reflected on this journey during the recent celebration assembly, sharing memories, stories, and moments that captured both the challenges and successes of their time together. As always, there was plenty of laughter, particularly when revisiting photos from Year 7 through to Year 13, alongside a strong sense of pride in how far they have come.

The class of 2026 is one of great character. So many wonderful young people are about to take their next steps in life, all whilst being supportive of one another, willing to step outside their comfort zones, and ambitious in their outlook. As they now prepare to take their next steps, whether to university, apprenticeships, employment, or travel, they do so equipped not only with qualifications but with the experiences, resilience, and confidence that will carry them forward.

We are incredibly proud of everything they have achieved and the people they have become. We look forward to welcoming them back in the future as part of the growing Poole High School alumni community.



CLASS OF
→ ♥ →
2026

