

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2025

Dear Parents,

Many of you will be aware that, unfortunately, the swimming pool at Hamstel Infant School & Nursery and Hamstel Junior School has been closed since the summer of 2024. This difficult decision was made following the discovery of significant issues with the pool's infrastructure, including the plant, boiler, and air handling unit, as well as numerous other problems, including those relating to fire safety and a major leak under the pool itself.

The investment required to bring the pool back into safe and operational use is substantial and the cost of these necessary repairs is too high for us to cover with our current budget.

Since the closure, the Portico Academy Trust has been working non-stop, speaking with Government departments, our local MPs, local businesses and national and local grant giving organisations. While there is widespread support for the reinstatement of the pool, securing the necessary funding remains a major challenge.

A key opportunity has recently emerged through a specific infrastructure fund. The Trust must submit bids for this by the end of November. We have been advised that our application would be significantly strengthened if we could show how the pool closure has impacted our students and the wider local community.

This is where we need your help.

### Share Your Story

The Trust is reaching out to every parent and local resident who has been affected by the pool closure. Your personal experiences are crucial in building a compelling case that highlights the pool's significant benefits and the negative effects its closure has caused.

We would be grateful to hear about your experiences, such as:

- **Impact on School Swimming:** Do you have children who had started to learn to swim through school lessons that are now stopped? Or perhaps you have older children who are strong swimmers because of the school program, but younger children who now can't learn that way?
- **Access and Cost:** Have you had a hard time finding other swimming classes for your children? For some families, the high cost of private lessons means the school's provision was the only realistic way their children would learn this essential, life-saving skill.
- **Community Use:** Were you or your family users of the private swim school that ran on weekends or after school? If so, how has losing this service affected your family's routine or your ability to access local facilities?

We are seeking to build a robust case that the Hamstel swimming pool provides significant, tangible benefits to both the school children and the local community, benefits that have been significantly missed by the closure.



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### How to Submit Your Comments

Please send your comments, stories, and testimonials, detailing how the closure of the Hamstel swimming pool has affected you, your children, or your family, to [hamstelpool@porticoacademytrust.co.uk](mailto:hamstelpool@porticoacademytrust.co.uk) by 21<sup>st</sup> November 2025.

Your input is invaluable and could be the factor that helps us unlock the funding needed to restore the Hamstel swimming pool for current and future generations.

We are committed to the reinstatement of the Hamstel swimming pool. Even if this specific funding bid is unsuccessful, please be assured that the Portico Academy Trust will continue to actively explore all other available options for funding and support. We know how much this facility matters, and we won't stop trying to find a solution.

Thank you for your continued support.

The Portico Academy Trust