

# LEARNING SUPPORT AT POYNTON HIGH SCHOOL



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Hi Everyone

We are pleased to announce that our new SENDCo Stephen Kettle will be joining us from Hyde High School in January 2024. Mr. Kettle is a former teacher of Poynton High so is familiar with the school and brings with him valuable SENDCo experience. We're all looking forward to welcoming him to the team in the New Year.

You will find within this newsletter examples of some of the fantastic photography work produced by one of our Year 12 students. Other articles include a report on a 'Break Out Room' themed English lesson – The Witches Lair; useful advice for families over the Christmas break as well as a review of the recent school production of 'Grease'.

We would also like to take this opportunity to mention how well our Year 11's are getting on with their mock GCSE exams. Lead Exam Learning Support Assistants, Mrs Thiele and Mrs Cox have both commented how 'They have all been fabulous, polite, hardworking and respectful'. Well done Year 11's and keep up the great work!

Cheshire East are keen to hear from Parents about what is working well and what could be done to improve the experiences and outcomes of children and young people with SEND. There are different surveys available for different audiences. More information and the links to the surveys can be found below.

We hope you enjoy reading this newsletter and we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

The Learning Support Team

## Cheshire East 0-25 SEND Partnership

Cheshire East opened a survey earlier this year and despite a good response they are asking that more people contribute and provide feedback, so have decided to reopen the survey. If you didn't get chance to put your views across previously, please do complete it. All surveys will close by 5pm on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2023. If you have responded previously then your feedback will be included in the overall analysis.

Children and young people survey:

<https://surveys.cheshireeast.gov.uk/s/AWRXNA/>

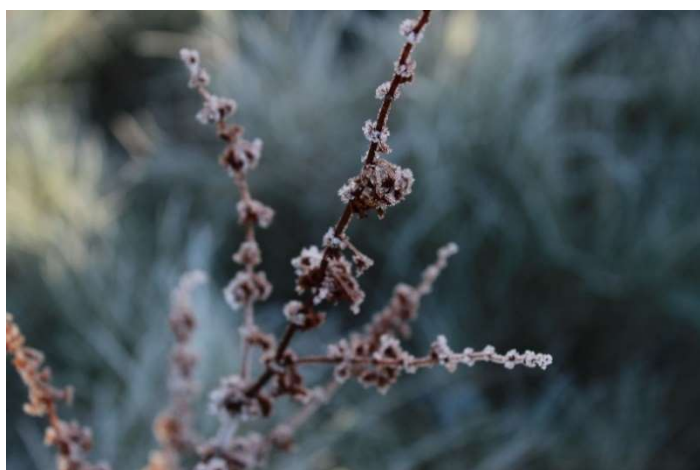
Parent and carer survey:

<https://surveys.cheshireeast.gov.uk/s/C7H1ZS/>

## Year 12 A Level Photography Student – Christina

We are so pleased to share with you some of the fantastic photography work Christina has produced this term.

Some of her photography pieces are currently being displayed outside the school library and more recently Christina braved the very cold weather and captured some beautiful 'frosty' photographs which you will find below.



## Grease is the word!

After an absence of 4 years, we saw the return of our school production and Grease presented us with a new set of challenges. How do we turn our school hall into the, much loved, world of Rydell High? The autumn term saw over 150 students, from years 7 to 13, showcasing their creative talents to put on the upbeat musical Grease to rave reviews. As it should be, the performing arts department, once again, was filled with art, music and song.

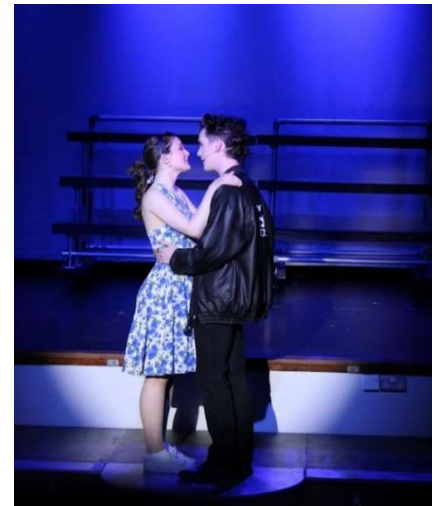
Like all PHS productions, everyone was encouraged to be involved, regardless of their age, background or ability. Whether it be in lighting, sound, costume, set and props, stage management or acting and singing there really has been a place for everyone in the Grease family.

Having worked on many productions in the past, it has become infectious for me to pass on my love for Art and Design to steer the design team to create the set and props. From the vibrant images from the 1950's; the graffiti covered lockers; to the glitz of the Diner and the Rock and Roll screens, the design team rose to every challenge to add their own sparkle to the stage.

It has been a pleasure to watch student's creativity blossom, confidence grow, and new friendships formed. The many hours spent in rehearsals and design sessions resulted in a thoroughly incredible, fun and uplifting show. Creating memories is an important part of a student's journey through school and for the company of Grease this incredible show will stay with them for years to come.

"Looking back, the school shows helped me begin to develop the practical, communication and perseverance skills I use every day in the world of work. Being involved in the shows was just as important an educational experience as what I learnt in the classroom. And if nothing else it was always a whole lot of fun!" - PHS alumni.

E.Lister. LSA & Set Designer on Grease



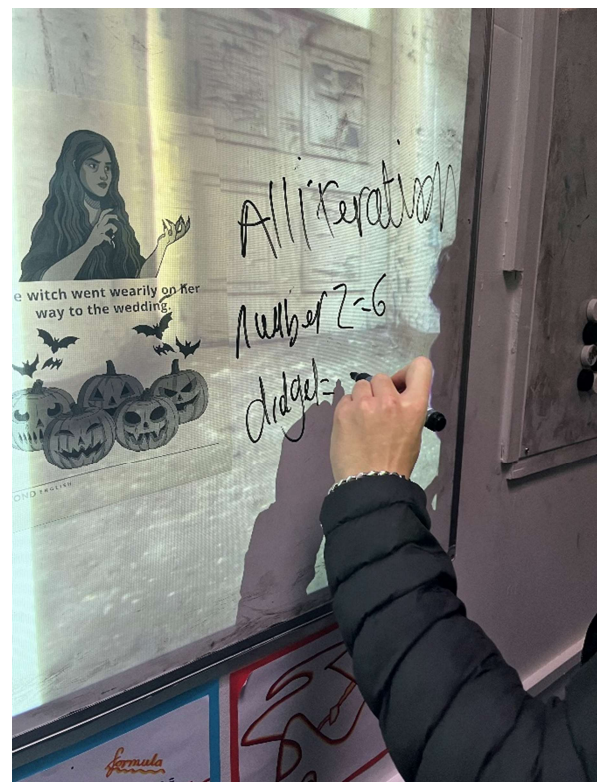
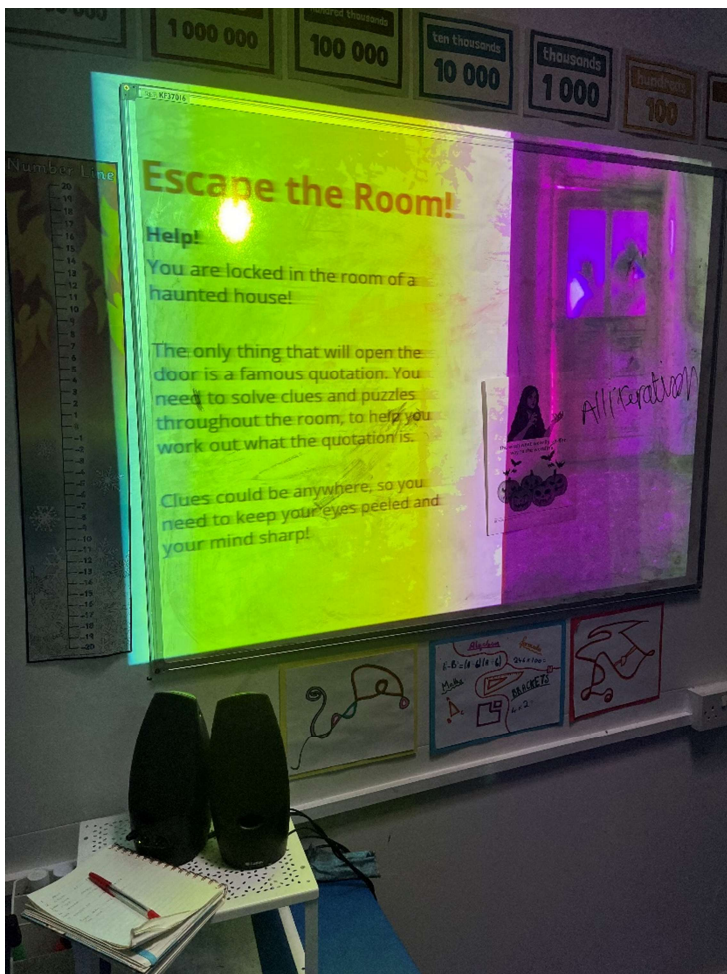
## The Witches' Lair

Two KS4 Enhance students suited up in winter gear as they prepared to enter the lair of Macbeth's witches. Students had 60 minutes to solve all the clues and acquire the phrase to escape the room. Entering the cold and dim lair (hence the coats and torch) students firstly had to search the room for clues. Once the visible clues were assembled students had to work out which clue was the first to be solved; students had to find a palindrome (a number that reads the same forwards as it does backwards). This led to them finding a witch's bank card where the card number was a palindrome sequence, after adding each of the numbers together this unlocked a chest with yet another clue.

The witches being manipulative and misleading as they are in Macbeth, left 'fake clues' in the room, these were to distract the group and ensure they were never to escape... Armed with a dictionary and a copy of Romantic poetry these led to the students deciphering messages with a key, counting the number of grammatical mistakes within a poem and identifying techniques on posters around the room. With the medalling power of the witches at play a sacred artefact was discovered. If students grabbed this and raised it to the heavens and shouted in unison, "Gods we need your wisdom!" their call would be answered with a riddle to aid their quest.

After several clues and with 10 minutes to go, a news article was discovered and separately a sheet with blank boxes. Students had to poke holes in the sheet and place it over the article to reveal a hidden message. This led them to the final puzzle where they had to cut out 4 columns and rearrange them to reveal a quote from Macbeth which opened the door with 2 minutes to spare. Will the next group be as lucky to escape the witch's lair?

C Harrop – Enhance English



## Enhance English

Enhance students have been reading and writing a range of narrative texts. We love a good story! As well as developing comprehension skills, the students have used published stories to inspire their own writing. The noticeboards in Room 34 provide a reminder of the books that we use and there is a new display to showcase "Work of the Week".

**Story Of The Week**

**The Fib by Y7**

Everyone knew Freya at New Birch Primary School and everyone knew she loved to tell fibs! We had heard it all:

"I live in a mansion with guard dogs."

She lived up our road in a three-bedroom house!

"I'm going to America on the weekend."

We saw her at the shops that Saturday!

As if this wasn't enough, Freya told us that she knew Adam Sandler AND the famous actor was due to visit New Birch to open our Drama studio. This time Freya had gone too far and her fibbing would make everyone laugh at her.




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The day of the visit came and everyone queued up to meet Adam Sandler. We expected Freya to be "ill" on the day, but surprisingly she was at the front of the line in her school blazer and tie.

Adam walked straight up to Freya and clearly said, "Hello Freya. How is Auntie Susan?"

Freya *did* know the movie actor. It wasn't a fib. This time it had been true...

**Your Planning: storyboard**

		
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**Your character: use speech to SHOW rather than tell.**

Everyone knew Kevin and his fibs. We had heard it all before:

"I'm going to the Caribbean for my holidays."

We never saw him with a tan!

**Build up and develop the storyline**

This time Kevin had gone too far. He claimed to know Harry Kane. Guess what – Harry Kane was coming to our school...

**The twist at the end**

"Hi Kevin," said Harry Kane, "I've not seen you in ages!"



Christmas can be a wonderful time of the year, catching up with family and friends, overindulging in Christmas goodies and watching Christmas movies. But it's important to remember that for some of us and our young people this season can be overwhelming. The lack of routine, the pressure to mix with unfamiliar people, busy schedules, meal times out of sync, lots of noise and excitement.

Please see the tips below which may help guide towards a happy and mentally healthy Christmas!

- Plan as a family so everyone knows what they are doing and when. Knowing the schedule for the day / week ahead can be reassuring so there are no surprises to deal with.
- Be prepared to say "No" to those invites which just aren't going to work for you or your young person.
- Get out in the fresh air. It's easy to become a hermit when it's cold outside but the fresh air and exercise help release those good endorphins.
- Don't compare your experiences to social media, this is just a snap shot of one moment in time and not a true reflection on reality. Concentrate on what is right for you and your family.
- Don't feel guilty about taking time out for yourself or facilitating some down time for your young person. If it's all getting too hectic have a break, read a book, listen to some music, watch a movie.
- Aim for 3 meals a day, keep topping up with fruit and veg and drink plenty of water amid the never-ending stream of goodies!

If your young person needs further support please see the below website from Cheshire East which has links to a variety of resources and contacts.

<https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/livewell/campaigns/covid-19-information-point/mental-health-help-for-young-people.aspx>

Enjoy your Christmas, your way!

## Cheshire East - Changes to High Needs Funding

Total funding on each Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan is currently expressed in hours but previous work and consultations (from 2017/18 onwards) supported use of a more flexible model.

There will be a move from expressing total funding for EHC Plans in hours to a banding model. This new banding model allocates funding as a band with an associated financial amount and will be applied only to school-aged children (e.g. Reception – Year 11) in mainstream schools.

All EHC Plans are reviewed at least annually – once implementation starts for relevant year groups, existing individual EHC Plans will be moved to the new model at their next review. For years 7 and above this will start to happen from 8 January 2024 (start of the Spring Term for the 2023/2024 academic year).

The change in the model is about flexibility – not cutting costs or increasing spend. Many Cheshire East schools already undertake a range of flexible support strategies to meet the needs of each individual child with an EHC Plan – includes the use of small group work, equipment or specialised software for example. The changing from expressing total funding in 'hours' to a band with a financial amount would better support and reflect this, modernise systems and remove confusion. The focus now should be on meeting the individual needs of the child through personalised provision listed in sections F, G and H and this will not change. It is how the funding is expressed which is changing. Agreed provision will remain focused on meeting needs. The new model is not about removing 1:1 support where this is working and required for particular needs; instead it allows for more options around how a child/young person may be supported (beyond just 1:1 support).

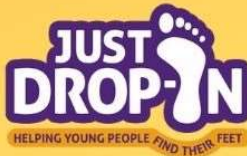
<b>Band</b>	<b>Hours From</b>	<b>Hours to</b>	<b>Hours (round up)</b>	<b>Top-Up Amount</b>
<b>0</b>	0	12	0	£ -
<b>1</b>	12.1	15	15	£1,700
<b>2</b>	15.1	18	18	£3,210
<b>3</b>	18.1	20	20	£4,230
<b>4</b>	20.1	22	22	£5,250
<b>5</b>	22.1	25	25	£6,800
<b>6</b>	25.1	28	28	£8,340
<b>7</b>	28.1	30	30	£9,370
<b>8</b>	30.1	32.5	32.5	£10,700

# Mental Health First Aid - Poynton

For parents and carers  
of young people aged 11-18.

**Saturday 20th and 27th January,  
9am-5pm,  
at Poynton Civic Hall.**

For all enquiries or to book a place, email:  
[parenting@justdropin.co.uk](mailto:parenting@justdropin.co.uk)



Cheshire East offer free confidential support and information to children and young people with SEND, their parents and or their carers (CEIAS). Further details can be found by clicking the following link:

[Cheshire East Information, Advice and Support](#)