



TRUE LEARNING
PARTNERSHIP



Poynton High School and Performing Arts College

Head Teacher: Mr M Dean

Friday, 31 March 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

We break up today for the holiday and I hope that you, and all our students and staff, manage to have a good break over Easter. I am sure that they will be ready for it! Over the last two months students have been on school trips to Canada, Iceland, Spain, and France. We welcomed 50 German students to school as part of our exchange and saw 100 students engaged in the Bronze DofE Award, with more pursuing the Silver and Gold Awards. There are also countless other opportunities for students closer to home through clubs, leadership opportunities and links with the local community. Some of our staff and students are away this holiday on either the Barcelona football trip or the Belgium Music tour and I hope that they enjoy the experience. I look forward to updating you on those visits after Easter.

Good luck to our Year 11 and 13 students

Our students have been working really hard to ensure that they are prepared for the upcoming A level and GCSE exams. Although I hope that these students do manage to have a break at some point over Easter they will also want to use it to continue to build up their knowledge and skills in advance of the exams. They should follow all the advice that they have been given and ensure that revision is active and uses their memory as much as possible. They will also want to continue to plan questions using the past papers, markschemes and examiners' reports that are available on the exam board websites. I know that Miss Dovey and Mr Bennett have written to parents separately with more detail but I wanted to extend my best wishes to Year 11 and 13 students.

Exams for students in other years

Year 10 students have just completed their exams and in the summer term all students in Years 7-9 and Year 12 will sit exams and assessments as we believe that it is important that skills in exams and revision are developed from Year 7. Year 9 have exams in April, Year 12 in May and the other years will have their exams in June. They will have been taught revision skills in each subject and there is advice for parents at [Poynton High School - Supporting Your Child with Learning \(pohs.cheshire.sch.uk\)](https://poyntonhighschool.cheshire.sch.uk/supporting-your-child-with-learning). The best way to build knowledge over time is to keep returning to material and I wish these students luck.

We have shared our Preparation, Performance and Progress revision strategy with parents previously and launched with Year 11 parents earlier this term at an evening in school. The strategy is based on the research of academics such as John Dunlosky of Kent State University

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who has researched the effectiveness of revision techniques. This research shows that tasks which actively practise recall work best and we have worked with students on that.

Celebrating students

We are always keen to celebrate students and do this through the House points which you can access on Class Charts. We also asked colleagues to nominate students who had demonstrated an exceptional work ethic and attitude to learning this term. Each member of staff could only nominate two students and I had the pleasure of reading the many positive comments staff made. I have written to parents of nominated students to share these comments and I hope that those students who receive a letter enjoy the well-deserved praise! We are also planning our Key Stage 3 Awards Evening to which we invite the parents of Year 9 students who have received subject and other awards and are hosting a separate Governors' Celebration Event at the end of the summer term. Both these events are fantastic ways of celebrating student achievement in lessons and in other aspects of school life.

Expectations of students after Easter

We are proud of the way that the vast majority of our students conduct themselves every day and grateful for the support of parents with that. After Easter we will return to the position we had before COVID and students will no longer wear coats in the building. We will also return to the expectation that at break and lunch students should not be waiting in corridors around school unless they are using the toilet or attending a club. There are lots of areas outside where students can socialise and they are welcome to use the canteen or the library if they want to be inside the building. Both of these approaches were successful before the pandemic and will help reinforce the very high standards we have for learners.

Year 9 Options

We had an excellent response by Year 9 students to the options process and are now reviewing their forms to build the curriculum for Year 10 next year. We will be able to let them know their final choices after Easter. Thank you for all the support that I know parents have put in to this process.

Extra-curricular activities

School is about more than exams and we have been pleased to see students engage so enthusiastically in a wide range of extra-curricular activities. The holiday might be a good chance for students to have a look at the range of activities available and commit to getting involved in something new after Easter. To see the range of activities available please go to [Poynton High School & Performing Arts College - Extra Curricular Activities and School Trips \(pys.cheshire.sch.uk\)](https://poyntonhighschool.cheshire.sch.uk)

Thank you again for your support and I wish you all the best for Easter.

With best wishes,



Matthew Dean
Headteacher