



TRUE LEARNING
PARTNERSHIP



Poynton High School and Performing Arts College

Head Teacher: Mr M Dean

Saturday, 27 May 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing this letter as the half term holiday begins and I hope that all our Year 11 students manage to get a decent break at some point in the holiday as well as using the time for valuable revision.

Yesterday saw the last day of being in school for all their lessons and Year 11 students were treated to free chips on their last 'chip Friday'! After half term students will only be in school for their exams and subjects will run intervention sessions, a mixture of in school and online, around the exam timetable which students have been made aware of.

Exams have now been running for two weeks and students have handled them really well so far. I hope that every time another exam is ticked off they feel a sense of satisfaction at a job well done! All we can ask is that students do their best both in terms of revision and in the exams themselves. Hard work now means that when the exams are over they can enjoy the long summer break in the knowledge that they have earned it!

Revision Advice

Students should by now be very familiar with the best ways to revise and I have been impressed to see some of the strategies that they have been using. It is possible though for students to fall into bad habits during the exam season and fall back on reading revision guides rather than doing active revision. This gives the illusion of revising but is unlikely to be of much help. At this stage students should be regularly using their memory for example through planning past paper questions, creating mindmaps or other notes from memory or testing themselves in other ways. If you need any further advice on supporting revision please see our guide for students at [download.asp \(phs.cheshire.sch.uk\)](https://www.phs.cheshire.sch.uk/download.asp).

Ofqual guidance for students

In May, Ofqual published some useful guidance for students on the 2023 summer exam series – available here [Ofqual Student Guide 2023 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/114444/Ofqual-Student-Guide-2023.pdf). Ofqual is the exams regulator, which checks the systems and processes of individual exam boards.

Yew Tree Lane, Poynton,
Stockport, Cheshire SK12 1PU

Tel: 01625 871811 Fax: 01625 874541
Email: info@phs.cheshire.sch.uk

Exams in 2023

This is the first year since the pandemic that exams have taken place without any significant adaptations, although students are able to use formula and equation sheets to support them in GCSE maths, combined science and physics.

This means that students have needed to study all content in their subjects as any topic could come up in the exam. This is the same across the country and across all exam boards.

Grading in summer 2023

As exam papers are completed, exam boards will begin to mark them using the same mark schemes as were in place in 2019 and in 2022 (the last two years in which exams took place). The marks awarded will depend on the quality of the student's work.

Once all papers are marked, then exam boards will set grade boundaries. This year, Ofqual's decision is to return to a similar pattern of grade distribution as in 2019. Ofqual has put systems in place to ensure that nationally grades will not be lower than in 2019, even if the quality of work is slightly lower. In other words, a student has about the same chance as achieving a Grade 4 or Grade 7 or Grade 9, etc. at GCSE as they did before the pandemic.

This is the main way in which the exam boards are attempting to ensure that students are not disadvantaged by having lived through the pandemic. Again, this approach is the same across the country, and across all exam boards.

Contingency date

Please note that Thursday 15 June (afternoon only) and Wednesday 28 June (all day) are national exam contingency days, in case any exam has to be rescheduled. These should already be on students' exam calendars. It is essential that students are available on these days and do not book holidays over this period, even if their last scheduled exam is over.

These dates hopefully won't be needed, but if they are, and students cannot attend due to holiday, they will not receive any marks for that paper.

Leavers' Assembly and Prom

As Miss Dovey mentioned in her recent letter to you these will be held on 29 June. We look forward to celebrating with students at these events.

Student support

If you need any further support during the rest of the exam series, or have any questions about this letter, please contact Miss Dovey or Miss Hollingworth at school.

I wish all our students the very best of luck with the rest of their exams.



With best wishes,

Matthew Dean

Matthew Dean
Headteacher

Yew Tree Lane, Poynton,
Stockport, Cheshire SK12 1PU

Tel: 01625 871811 Fax: 01625 874541
Email: info@pchs.cheshire.sch.uk