



TRUE LEARNING  
PARTNERSHIP



# Poynton High School and Performing Arts College

Head Teacher: Mr M Dean

Sunday, 11 June 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope that at some point over the half term you managed to have a break with your children. It has been good to see them back in school this week as they tackle the final half term of the year. I hope that the updates in this letter are useful for you and I look forward to seeing you at some of the events that we have in school this half term.

## **Year 11 and 13 examinations**

The Year 11 and 13 students have continued with their GCSE and A level exams and as each day goes by more of the subjects are completed. Students have tackled these exams in a really positive way and our experienced team of invigilators have praised their conduct in the exams. I hope that students continue to focus on revision as their hard work will pay off and the end is now certainly in sight! Good luck to the students and thank you for all the support at home that I know will have been needed to ensure that these exams are a success. In 2022 our students achieved the best results in Cheshire East and we hope that this year students will do as well.

## **Year 7 and 8 exams**

One of the reasons that students always conduct themselves so well in public exams is that they are well trained. From Year 9, the end of year exams are always in the hall or gym as they will be at GCSE and all our Year 7 and 8 students sit formal end of year exams. These exams have concluded this week and we have been very impressed by the way that students have tackled both exams and revision. These skills will certainly be vital for the future so well done to those students.

## **High expectations**

We always have high expectations of our students in terms of uniform, attendance and behaviour and we are delighted that students are responding so well. Last half term we brought back the conduct cards that we used before COVID and were pleased that at the start of this term 74 students received H4s for having a clean green card, meaning that their uniform had been perfect for the whole half term. Lots of other students just missed this as they had one or two instances when uniform was not absolutely perfect. We are hoping that this half term students do even better!

## **Sustainable uniform sales**

Thanks to our PTA who have been organising regular pre-loved uniform sales. These have been well used by parents and are a great way to save money and the planet. If you have any uniform

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Email: [info@pchs.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:info@pchs.cheshire.sch.uk)

that is clean and in good condition we would love to have it so that others could benefit. Please drop any uniform or football boots off in reception at any point during the school day.

### **Student leadership and engagement**

Our students involve themselves in a wide range of extra-curricular activities and trips. This week I received a certificate from the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme celebrating the social value of all the volunteering that our students engage in. We have around 160 students taking part in the DofE at Bronze, Silver and Gold level and they gain so much from these activities. I was delighted to see that our local community has also benefited from 2873 hours of volunteering over the last year through the DofE. Thank you to our staff who enable the DofE to happen and I look forward to presenting the Bronze and Silver DofE Awards to students later this half term. Students achieving the Gold Award receive theirs from the Duke of Edinburgh rather than me! Thanks as well to parents for nudging students to complete those last sections of the award online.

We will be recruiting again for the DofE with Y9, 10 and 12 in September and in the meantime your child might be interested in some of the other opportunities available at school. These can be found through notices in school or at [Poynton High School & Performing Arts College - Extra Curricular Activities and School Trips \(phs.cheshire.sch.uk\)](http://poyntonhighschool.co.uk/extra-curricular-activities-and-school-trips)

### **House points**

This half term sees the final push for House points in advance of the Governors Awards Evening in July. Students can earn points through involvement in lessons, good work and through extra-curricular success. I hope to have the chance to celebrate student success with our governors and parents in the last week of term.

### **Bridging the Gap transition visit to Menai**

On Monday morning we will wave off the Year 6 pupils who have received places for Year 7 next year as they head off to the Conway Centre at Menai. This is always a successful event and a great opportunity for pupils to meet each other and our staff. At the weekend pupils in primary schools beyond our immediate feeder schools will follow for a weekend visit. It is great that we are oversubscribed in Year 7 next year and we look forward to working with these pupils at Menai and then when we have our transition day in school.

### **Year 9 GCSE options**

On 9 June students received their GCSE options letters and I hope that they have shared this with you. Mrs Howells and the team have done a great job in ensuring that as many students as possible can take their preferred options and there were certainly lots of happy faces. Good luck for these students for when they start their GCSEs in Year 10.

### **Class Charts and Evolve**

This year we introduced two new systems which we intend to continue with next year. I hope that you think these have improved communication and the quality of information you receive. Class Charts lets you see student timetables, reward and consequence points and attendance and we are grateful for the parental support that this enables. MyEVOLVE has streamlined the organisation of trips and the purchase of resources such as discounted revision guides through school. Both of these will continue next year.

### **Seasonal reminders**

As we are in the final half term I wanted to remind you that students should come with a refillable water bottle so they can stay hydrated. They can fill this up at break or lunchtime from the fountain or buy drinks if they prefer. They should not be leaving lessons to fill their water bottle. We know that many students have hayfever and wanted to remind you that they cannot bring hayfever tablets to school. This is the same as any other medication and should be taken at home unless there is an agreed care plan with school.

### **Parental mental health session 12 July**

We work closely with the local NHS Mental Health Support team and have arranged for them to offer an information session for parents on 12 July at 4pm. Further detail will be sent out with the invitation. I know that this will be a useful session and we hope that it will be the first of a series of information sessions for parents.

### **Other events coming up this half term for parents**

There are several opportunities for parents to share in student successes this half term. We are planning some events to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our school and there are several other events that I hope you can join us at. We will be inviting parents in to celebrate with their children at the KS3 Awards Evening and the Governors Awards Evening. Over 200 students are involved in Play in a Week and we hope that you can support your child in watching that. We also have information evenings for some year groups in school and as part of the Poynton Arts Festival we will open our doors for our GCSE and A level Art exhibition.

I hope to see you soon and to share more information with you in the final three newsletters of the year.

With best wishes,



Matthew Dean  
Headteacher