



Year 8 Parent and Carer Bulletin – October 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope this bulletin finds you and your families safe and well. It has been a fantastic first half term and the students have been brilliant. It has been a pleasure working with and getting to know the Year 8 students over the last seven weeks, and the KS3 Team are really looking forward to celebrating all of their inspiring achievements throughout the year ahead. Inside this bulletin you will find an overview of what is being studied in different subject areas, as well as some ideas about what is ahead next half term.

Please note: School closes at 3.15pm on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October

School reopens on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October on week 2 of the timetable

- Remember – follow @PHSYear8and9 on twitter for regular updates

## English

Year 8 Students Embark on an Exciting Exploration of 'The Rise of the Novel'!

This term, our Year 8 students have been embarking on a literary adventure, delving into the captivating world of 'The Rise of the Novel.'

This term, students will be showcasing their knowledge and understanding in two assessments:

- Recall, short structured answer about the popularity of the novel and a short creative writing piece based on Robinson Crusoe.
- EATL: why is the novel the most popular literary form in English Literature?

We believe that nurturing a love for reading is fundamental to a student's education journey. That's why we're excited to introduce the Reading Log initiative!

We encourage students to dedicate a minimum of 15 minutes each day to immerse themselves in a text of their choice.

To monitor their reading progress, we've created the Reading Log.

In this log, students will record the title of the text and the number of pages they've read. We kindly request your support in overseeing this process. At the end of a two-week period, please endorse your child's consistent reading habit by signing the log.

Also, we're excited to introduce a fantastic new feature on ClassCharts that allows us to track a student's reading accomplishments. Keeping tabs on their literary journey has never been this rewarding!

Here's how it works: Each time a student completes a reading log (and there are four in total), they will earn valuable reward points.

But there's more! For those students who go the extra mile and complete all four logs, there's an exclusive invitation waiting for them.

The prize? An unforgettable summer rewards trip to the incredible Alton Towers!

Home Learning Expectations

We are committed to providing a nurturing learning environment; in this regard, we believe it is important to outline the homework expectations for our KS3 English students.

Over a two-week timetable, we expect students to complete the homework tasks listed below; these tasks are designed to foster a love of reading, reinforce classroom learning, cultivate independent study habits, and ensure the academic progress of your child. Please take a moment to review the following expectations:

Year 7, 8 and 9 Reading Log:

We encourage students to dedicate a minimum of 15 minutes daily to read a text of their choice. To monitor their reading progress, we have introduced the Reading Log. In this log, your child will record the title of the text and the number of pages read. We kindly ask for your support in overseeing this process and, at the end of the two-week period, to endorse their consistent reading habit by signing the log. This dedication to reading will not only contribute to their academic growth but also earn them a well-deserved certificate of achievement.

## **Maths**

Year 8 have been studying a range of topics, mostly based on Number. Our first topic was Ratio and Scale, where students looked at the meaning of ratio and its applications. Next, they moved onto Multiplicative Change which included problems on direct proportion, scale diagrams and exchanging currencies. Next, we moved onto Multiplying and Dividing Fractions exploring how this can be represented visually and how to carry out calculations.

Students should be getting regular written homework and work on Dr Frost Maths <http://drfrostmaths.com>. This is the online platform for maths homework. Students can complete tasks set by their teacher, but also do some independent practice to help prepare them for the work to come. Click on the Start a Practice button on the home page or on the Course they've been assigned to practice some skills.

















Just after half term there will be an assessment to show us how much students have learned since being in Year 8. Look out for a revision list on Google Classroom.

Bad Maths Joke - Why did the Geometry teacher miss school? Because he sprained his angle!

Halloween Maths Challenge

What is the value in each picture? What do you think the direction means?

Tell your maths teacher the answer after half term for house points.

				<b>14</b>
				
				
				<b>10</b>
	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>		

## Science

This half term students in Y8 have been studying the following topics:

- 8Biology1- Food and Digestion
- 8Chemistry1- Gas tests and the environment
- 8Physics1- Energy 2.

After half term student will complete their first science assessment

The following pages in the revision guide will help them to revise for this:

- 8B1- Food and Digestion revision guides pages 8-12 practice questions p13, p183 qu 12
- 8C1- Gas tests and the environment revision guide pages 97-99 practice questions p100,
- 8P1- Energy revision guide pages 105 practice question 3 page 108.

Students have access to Seneca, it is important that all students can assess Seneca as assignments will be put on here for them to complete as part of their revision for their forthcoming assessments.

The revision guide which they purchased at the start of Y7 is suitable for Y7 and 8. Those students who didn't purchase one in Y7 have been given the opportunity to buy one again this year through us. They should have done this through their myEVOLVE account. These are at a discounted price of £6.15.

Alternatively, they can purchase one themselves using the following link:

<https://www.cgpbooks.co.uk/secondary-books/ks3/science/shs35-new-ks3-science-complete-revision>

Challenge activities:

To support their current science topics students may want to watch/visit the following activities. Operation Ouch at the Science and Industry museum is a great day out and I real hands on experience looking at how the digestive system works!!

8B1 Food and Digestion: <https://www.scienceandindustrymuseum.org.uk/whats-on/operation-ouch>

8C1 Gas test and Environment: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d7Ci\\_EooW-k](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d7Ci_EooW-k)

8P3 Energy: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Eizsm5V8c\\_c](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Eizsm5V8c_c)

## Religious Studies

Year 8 have been looking at Judaism this half term and should now have completed or be about to complete their assessment on making a guide for a Bar Mitzvah. After half term they will be looking at different ideas about the afterlife and the importance of life, including ceremonies such as Baptism.

## Geography

Year 8 geographers have come back to school with a bang! Literally – as we are studying Our Restless Earth with a focus on volcanoes. We are studying not only the impacts that they have on the people who live close to them, but also on global impacts throughout time. We are looking at the earth's structure and the evidence for plate tectonic theory – a real mix of both physical and human geography. Although we can't visit an active volcano, students will have the chance to show their knowledge in a more creative way next half term by constructing a geologically accurate composite or shield volcano in a traditional papier mâché way or by using programmes such as Minecraft. Students present their methods and the features to their peers and presenting skills are another skill that we like to introduce at this stage.

There are so many great programmes to watch including the Volcano Live programme

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bIDXgde1Tpg> and a TedEd on volcanoes here

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LQwZwKS9RPs> which introduces lots of key terms to stretch your knowledge. If an online quiz is more your style then check out Seterra here

<https://www.geoguessr.com/vgp/3047> which has lots of interactive geography location quizzes to have a go at.

## History

Year 8 and Year 9 have made an excellent start to the academic year and have shown lots of interest in our first topics of the academic year. Year 8 have been looking at how William was able to conquer England and Year 9 have been investigating the causes of World War One. Both year groups have completed, or will be completing very soon, their first assessment of the year and have worked hard to plan and write up their assessments. We look forward to teaching the students about why the English fought the English and how World War One was fought in the run up to Christmas.

## MFL

Well done to Year 8 students for their work this half-term.

In Spanish, students are learning about where they live and how to use the future tense. In German, students can talk about their town in the present and past and they can also describe a past holiday.

All Key Stage 3 students will be completing their first sets of assessments in Reading, Listening and Translation next half-term. Each teacher will set topics and tips for revision. We are looking forwards to brilliant results!

We have had a great Poynton Week of Languages! Thank you to all the Year 8 students who have entered our annual Bake-off competition was also a huge success with record numbers of entries. We had 2 days of bake sales and raised £235 for MacMillan nurses!

Useful websites:

Most classes have used [www.memrise.com](http://www.memrise.com), [www.quizlet.com](http://www.quizlet.com) or [www.pearsonactivelearn.com](http://www.pearsonactivelearn.com) in their language lesson in the computer room. These are great websites to use at home too. Any student can join by using their google account and individual teachers have set classes and home learning tasks.

Username and passwords for [www.pearsonactivelearn.com](http://www.pearsonactivelearn.com) have been given out and students should have written their usernames and passwords for the different websites on the first page of their vocab booklets. If your child hasn't had access to this website, ask them to check with their teachers on Google Classroom.

Keep following us on Twitter too:

Mr Farrell- @MonsieurFarrell

French Department - @PH\_rench

German Department - @PHS\_GERMAN

Spanish Department@PHS\_Spanish



## Food Preparation and Nutrition and Textiles

During Year 8, Textiles and Food is split over the academic year. This means students will complete half of the year in Food and the second half of the year in Textiles or vice-versa.

In Food lessons students have been focusing on the following topics, food hygiene and modifying recipes for different groups. Practical's have included Bolognese and a vegan curry.

Next term we will continue to work on skills through practical lessons. Please can I remind students that they must bring labelled containers big enough to take home their food products at the end of the day. If students have left their containers in the department please can these be collected at the start of term.

In Textiles we have been designing and developing a pencil case. Students have created initial ideas and painted their backgrounds using different dyes. Next term they will produce their own patterns on adobe create. These will be printed onto sublimation paper to be transferred to their pencil cases.

## Product Design

This half term started with students looking at Health and Safety in Product Design and how to be safe in the workshop. This is a re-cap from Year 7 and has enabled students to recall information that they learnt last year.

Students this half term have been focussing on the Soapbox Challenge based on the Soapbox Derby. Students have come up with a range of design ideas for their Soapbox and then have worked in teams to come up with their final design. Students will then go home and come back to school with a range of modelling materials to create their vehicle.

After half term students will continue to make these and then prepare to race their vehicles.

## **PE**

In PE over the first term students have completed a range of activities from invasion games to dance to problem solving to Net and wall games to Gymnastics and fitness. The students experience the activities for a 6-week block before moving to the next rotation. The first block of activities has now been completed and students will move on to their next two activities.

With the weather now getting colder it is recommended that students now bring suitable PE kit for this weather, as some PE lessons will still be outside. Students can wear any of the following in addition to PHS PE kit to ensure they stay warm during outdoor lessons.

- Long sleeved t – shirt or under armour underneath their PE t – shirt
- Plain blue Jumper (No hoodies)
- Plain blue or black tracksuit bottoms
- Gloves

It has been fantastic to see so many students getting involved in the PE extracurricular activities at both lunch and afterschool. Any student is welcome to join and they don't have to have been before. After school clubs require students to get changed and lunch time clubs' students can just turn up and play.

## **Dance**

Well done and thank you for all of those who helped out at Open Evening the students were absolutely fabulous. Year 8 Dance Club is every Tuesday 3.20 – 4.10 pm in the Dance studio and Year 9 Dance Club is every Thursday 3.20 – 4.10pm . All new members welcome, we will be busy creating pieces for our Annual Dance Showcase

## **Computing**

Year 8 students have started the year by studying Networks, discussing topics such as the difference between the World Wide Web and the Internet. After half term, students will move onto learning how to code using Small Basic. This unit will be assessed, students will receive feedback and will be expected to act upon this feedback.

All Year 8 students are invited to come along to our extra-curricular Robotics Club. It runs on Thursdays after school 3.15 – 4.15pm, in rm 29. Students will get the opportunity to build their own Scratch games, play with the Lego robots, Microbits and even the Oculus Rifts. Numbers are limited.

## Art

In Art & Design the year eight's have been exploring patterns and concentrating upon tessellations and radial symmetry. They have designed repeating patterns using translations, reflections and rotations. Groups have used different media experimenting with origami paper folding techniques and exploiting certain origami folds to produce colourful radial pattern reliefs. Groups will be studying Islamic Art and its close links to mathematics before designing radial symmetrical patterns that will be transformed into printing blocks next half term. These printing blocks will produce a repeating radial pattern before having colour schemes added.



## Extra-Curricular

The full extra-curricular activity timetable link...

<https://www.phs.cheshire.sch.uk/page/?title=Extra+Curricular+Activities+and+School+Trips&pid=149>

## Message from Miss Holyland

You can claim free school meals for each child who attends school in Cheshire East if you receive one of these benefits:

- Income Support
- Income based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income related Employment Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit - as long as you have a yearly household income of less than £16,190 (as assessed by HM Revenue and Customs) and do not get
- Working Tax Credit
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- Universal Credit with no earned income or with net monthly earnings less than £616.67

You can apply for nursery-age children if they attend before and after lunch sessions at a local authority nursery school, nursery class or an Academy nursery if it has the same Ofsted number as the primary school.

Phone 0300 123 5012 for further information and help or you can apply online at

[https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/schools/free\\_school\\_meals.aspx](https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/schools/free_school_meals.aspx)

### Equipment Reminder

- Students need to bring the following equipment to school with them every day:
  - Pens – blue or black
  - Red pen
  - Pencil
  - Ruler
  - Protractor
  - Pair of compasses
  - Calculator
  - Rubber
  - Reading book
- It would also be handy to have scissors and glue!

### Updates from Around School

- **Student Voice:**

At Poynton High School we value our students and want them to have the opportunity to share their views. Each half term Mr Western is meeting with representatives from each form in year 8 and year 9 with a different focus. This half term they discussed positive expectations looking at what the school is doing well and what we could do better. As a Year team we will use this to help us continue to support our young people.

- **Educate Challenge Empower Charter:**

We have continued to focus on our educate challenge empower charter in school this half term, meeting with students and holding sessions focused on upholding the charter in school. After half term, our students will be taking part in activities during registration around the charter and the wider societal issues it covers.

- **Open Evening:**

I wanted to take the opportunity to thank all of our students involved in the open evening. It is a real testament to our school that so many students wanted to help. They are a real credit to our school and we are grateful for their help.

- **Promoting Positive Mental Health:**

We are continuing with our 'Wellbeing Wednesday' fortnightly form time activities, giving our students a chance to practice some mindfulness as well as educating them about the importance of looking after their own wellbeing and how to do this. We strive to promote positive mental health and mentally healthy practices with our students.

- [www.MyMind.org.uk](http://www.MyMind.org.uk) - Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust's (CWP) nationally recognised Child and Adolescent Mental Health website 'MyMind' has been refreshed and relaunched in time for this year's World Mental Health Day. MyMind is a dedicated website for young people across Cheshire and Wirral experiencing mental health difficulties. With support from local young people from our Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), MyMind has now been given a modern makeover! The site includes a host of interactive self-help resources for



young people, parents/carers and anyone who works with young people around the topics of Mood, Lifestyle and Relationships, as well as details on local mental health services in your area.

Well done once again to all of the students for making such a great start to this academic year. A final thanks you and well done on such a brilliant term. Have a lovely and restful half term break and we look forward to welcoming you all back on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October.

If you have any queries about anything school related, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Thank you for your continued support.

**Jodie Hancock**

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