



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 the Year 9 students again 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 20th October

School reopens on Monday 30th October on week 2 of the timetable

- Remember – follow @PHSYear8and9 on twitter for regular updates

## English

Students have spent the first half term studying a scheme of work named 'Big Ideas'; in this we explore critical issues such as gender and race through fiction. The students are working towards two pieces of assessed work: one an English Literature essay about the novel *The Hate U Give* and one an English Language creative short story.

We encourage all students to read for pleasure in their own time, and encouraging reading is the most effective way to support your child's English progress. Use <https://schoolreadinglist.co.uk/category/reading-lists-for-ks3-pupils/>; it's a great resource for discovering new YA fiction.

Assessments:

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

- 'Recall and Epiphany Narrative - Plan, title and write a short narrative about an important moment. This can be fictional or based on your own experiences.'
- 'EATL: *The Hate U Give* Response – 'In what ways does Starr grow when it comes to learning to use her voice to fight for the issues she is passionate about?'

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

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:

One homework will focus on enhancing their literacy skills, including literary devices, SPAG (Spelling, Punctuation, and Grammar), and creative writing, all in preparation for KS4 study. This assignment will provide a valuable opportunity for them to further develop their proficiency in reading, writing, and critical thinking.

Join us for our Homework Club in the library every Tuesday during lunchtime. Whether you want to get ahead or need some assistance, we're ready to support you.

## Maths

Year 9 have been studying a range of topics, mostly based on Number. Some sets have been learning how to work with Standard Form. Standard form is an efficient way to deal with very big or very small numbers. It's easy to compare numbers in standard form without counting digits. Look out for uses of this in Science – An atom has a radius of  $1 \times 10^{-10}$  m. Other sets have been looking at Prime Factors which are a lovely way to play around with numbers. Did you know that every number can be made by multiplying prime numbers together, and there's only 1 way to do it for each number? Eg 42 is  $2 \times 3 \times 7$ .

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 before half term there is assessment to show us how much students have learned since being in Year 9. 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 Y9 have completed the following topics:

Biology- Cells

Chemistry- Basic Chemistry

Physics- Energy.

They will have a test on these topics in November.

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.

Challenge activities:

To support their current science topics students may want to watch the following activities.

Biology: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yBfGRqVbJjk> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lxHMJaXOzP4>

Chemistry: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WohAAJlm9fw> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GWOHVstUB1Y>

Physics: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JGwcDCeYRYo> further reading: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nbXXFtF8Lzs>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4lQrMzjARq8>

## Religious Studies

Year 9 have been working on an introduction to Philosophy this half term and have looked at ideas from thinkers such as Aristotle and Thomas Aquinas. They should have now completed or be about to complete a balanced argument on the existence of God. After half term they will be starting to look at Ethics and will be receiving visitors from some of the local churches to talk about how a Christian might make an ethical decision.

## Geography

Our year 9 geographers have started the term superbly with a topic that both interests them and challenges their perceptions. We look at what we mean by 'Factfulness' and not judging our views and understanding about the world on the danger of the single story about a place. We challenge students to see if they are as 'smart as a chimpanzee' and you can too if you follow this link!

<https://upgrader.gapminder.org/t/population>

We are then studying global population growth and the issues – both positive and negative, that affect areas of our world that are experiencing rapid population growth but also those experiencing ageing populations. This is in the context of the idea of a development gap between the world's richest countries and those who are catching up and the causes of this gap. This unit involves lots of data analysis which of course in geographical terms is always changing. There are many ways to extend learning in this topic from the brilliant Dollar Street <https://www.gapminder.org/dollar-street> where photos are used as data to look at the world. This topic brings together the work covered in our Africa unit in year 7 as well as the Global Superpowers understanding of year 8.

## 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 9 students for their work this half-term!

Year 9 Spanish have worked on the topic of holidays in the past tense which helps their language become more complex and interesting. All this give them a head start with the grammar and the topics needed for a GCSE in a language.

This year, Y9 Spanish students will be able to take part in our exchange with Colegio San Viator in Madrid. Watch this space!

In French, students have revised all to do with family: family members, physical and personality descriptions. They have revised basic verbs and adjectives which will give them a good background knowledge before they start their GCSE next year. They will now move onto describing their relationship to others (family and friends), what makes a good friend and using the past tense to talk about going out with friends

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

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

## **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 continuation from Year 8 and has enabled students to recall information that they learnt last year.

This year, students do two lessons a fortnight of Product Design. This enables us to do a range of projects throughout the year so that the students get a real flavour of the subject before their GCSE option choices.

Depending on the student's teacher, students will either be working on the 'Mini NEA project' or the 'Architecture project'.

### **Mini NEA**

We have incorporated a mini NEA (Non-Exam Assessment) which, if students are to choose Product Design at GCSE, this is what they would do. This gives students the opportunity to really understand what Product Design is like at GCSE whilst being in Year 9. This half term, students have chosen their contextual challenge (this is what their individual project will be based on). They have created a task analysis, looked into their user group, completed a product analysis and have begun to create design ideas linking to their contextual challenge. This project is a design and make project with students coming out with their own individual outcomes and modelling their outcome with an evaluation at the end of the project.

### **Architecture project**

During the Architecture project, students will design and model a building based on sustainable living. This creates plenty of discussion and thought about how we can be more sustainable in everyday life.

Students have been practising their isometric sketches and perspective drawing to start of the Architecture project. They have then started to design their Architecture building and what this will include.

Next half term students will start thinking of which modelling materials they will use and begin to model their building.

## **Food Preparation and Nutrition and Textiles**

In Food lessons students have been focusing on the topic of raising agents. Practical's have included two types of bread making.

Next term we will continue to work on raising agents but focus on manual methods such as whisking and sieving. Practical lesson will include swiss roll and Victoria sponge.

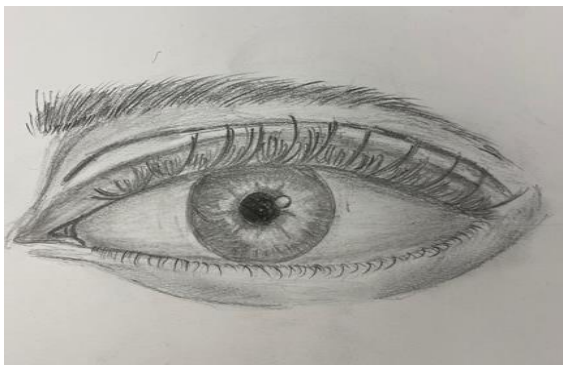
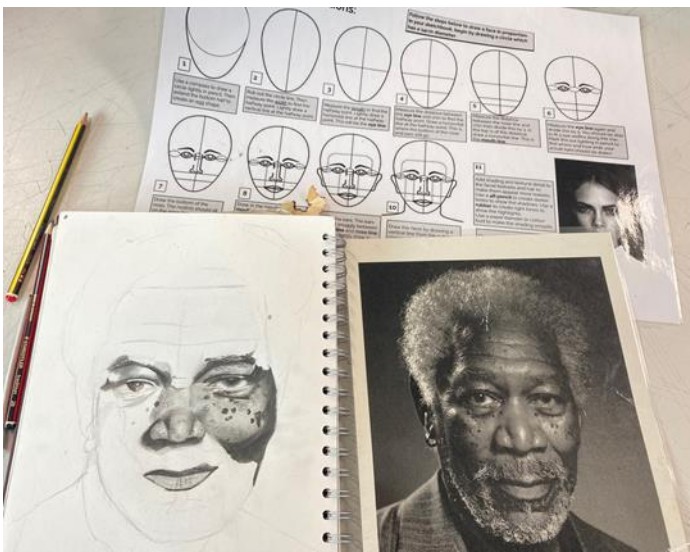
Please can I remind students that they must bring labelled containers big enough to take home their food products at the end of the day. If students have left their containers in the department please can these be collected at the start of term. It may also be beneficial to bring in a baking tray and/ or Victoria sponge tins to save time on washing up during busy practical lessons.

In Textiles we have been designing and developing a bucket hat. Students have recently practiced a variety of different decorative techniques which will be used to develop their designs. In our next lessons students will be focusing producing their own pattern to cut out their fabric pieces. Where possible, students may want to bring in their own fabric for this product. We would encourage students to upcycle any old garments for example, jeans.

## Art

This term, Year 9 artists have learnt about self-portraiture in Art history. They have learnt how to draw facial features in proportion and develop their shading techniques to create tone and depth. The students have also learnt how to draw a face in proportion. We have also had interesting debates surrounding the themes of “Self Portraiture vs Selfies”, where we discuss how self portraits can be more representative of who you are as a person. As a result of this, our year 9’s first self portrait was one that accurately described who they are, their likes, their dislikes, their hobbies, their personality. This task was called the ‘I AM’ self portrait.

Next term, students will be introduced to a series of artists who study this theme. They will learn techniques in stencilling and collage. Students will then use their knowledge and understanding of the artists’ style to produce their own mixed-media artwork.



## Computing

Year 9 students have started the year by being introduced to the programming language of Python. We started by looking strings and integers and moved onto selection and iteration. This unit of work will be assessed, students will receive feedback that they will be expected to act upon. After half term we will be moving onto Animation, introducing the students to Adobe Animate.

All Year 9 students are invited to come along and attend IDEA, an extra-curricular club, on Thursdays after school in rm 28. The Inspiring Digital Enterprise Award, allows you to work towards the Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards. The skills gained, can be used for the Duke of Edinburgh Skills Section. For more information visit, [www.idea.org.uk](http://www.idea.org.uk)

## 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 next activity for year 9.
- 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.

## 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

- Due to the current circumstances, we are unable to lend equipment to the students this year.
- Students need to bring the following equipment to school with them everyday:
  - 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. The Year page on Google Classroom has some advice and information for 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 thank 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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