



**Poynton High School**  
**Year 10 Parent and Carer Bulletin – October 2023**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Year 10 have made a fantastic start to their GCSE subjects this academic year.

Each half term I will send out a year group bulletin, inside your will find important information about what students have been studying recently and what is coming up after the half term break for our students. It will also include information about strategies suggested by subject tutors to ensure students achieve their maximum potential.

**Revision and examination support**

As a school we are committed to ensuring that you feel that you are well equipped in supporting your young person through their GCSEs. Our website contains lots of practical support for both yourself and your young person regarding revision techniques and strategies. The booklet linked below contains details of the revision techniques your young person has been looking at in school.

<https://www.phs.cheshire.sch.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=1051&type=pdf>

<https://www.phs.cheshire.sch.uk/keystage4exams>

The presentation from the Year 10 information evening is linked here:

<https://www.phs.cheshire.sch.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=1225&type=pdf>

**Important dates**

- Assessment 1: 06/11/23 – 24/11/23
- Progress Grades 1: 12/12/23
- Parents Evening (online): 08/02/24
- Exams: 18/03/24 – 28/03/24
- Progress Grades 2: 14/05/24
- Assessment 3: 10/06/24 – 14/06/24
- Reports: 09/07/24

**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 Shaw is meeting with representatives from each form in year 10 and year 11 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.

## English

- Year 10 are currently completing their studies of the first 5 poems from their Power and Conflict Anthology. After October half-term, they will be studying Shakespeare's Macbeth, so they will shortly receive the text they paid for in Year 9.
- Encourage students to read as many books as possible! The more they read, the more they become used to understanding a wide variety of texts. This will assist with their completion of both Language and Literature GCSEs;
- All home learning is being set on a weekly basis on Google Classroom so please encourage students to complete this work. There is a tracking sheet in their revision folders that you can use to track and monitor their engagement with home learning tasks. These are explicitly linked to the GCSEs so students should be completing them to the best of their ability.
- Encourage students to ask as many questions as possible and get involved with the various activities and learning experiences on offer!
- Look out for revision tips on our Twitter page @PHS\_EngDept
- Read and re-read your GCSE English Literature texts.
- Check through lesson notes and ask your teacher to clarify anything you are unsure about.
- Positive praise emails will be sent home before October break for pupils who have worked particularly hard in English this half-term.

## Maths

Year 10 have made a great start following the new White Rose GCSE scheme of work. They will be sitting their first formal GCSE level assessment this next half term. A list of topics which they are being assessed on will be made available on Google classroom. Once this process is complete we will be going through a feedback process which allows class teachers to see exactly where the strengths and weaknesses of the class are. From this, students will have a personalised revision list where they can identify areas for improvement moving forward. Further information will be given to students in their lessons.

They continue to be set fortnightly homeworks; one of which is through drfrostmaths which is an online website. Students have been given all of their log in details for this, please encourage them to use this regularly as part of their independent revision. In addition to using Dr Frost we will soon be providing details of how you can purchase a revision guide to supplement their revision and preparation for GCSE.

## Science

Subject	This half term	Next half term
<b>Biology</b>	<b>Separate Science Students:</b> Are studying the topic of Disease and will learn how to grow microbes without contamination and how a variety of medications work and are produced	<b>Separate Science Students:</b> Will learn Separate Science only content on Plant defences and diseases before beginning to learn about plants and photosynthesis, linking to prior knowledge from Y9 and KS3
	<b>Combined Science Students:</b> Have been learning about types of disease, the body's defences and how	<b>Combined Science Students:</b> Will continue to learn plants and

	<p>drugs are developed and tested. They have started the Plants topic learning about plant transport and organisation</p> <p><b>All:</b> Have completed first TMA and have acted on feedback from staff</p>	<p>photosynthesis before beginning to learn about digestion, building on and extending KS3 knowledge</p> <p><b>All:</b> Will sit their first assessment on course content delivered so far. SENECA resources will be set to aid revision</p>
<b>Chemistry</b>	<p><b>Separate Science Students:</b> Have continued with the topic of chemical bonding (C2) that they started at the end of year 9. They have completed their first assessment on the topic and completed a TMA.</p> <p><b>Combined Science Students:</b> Have continued with the topic of chemical bonding (C2) that they started at the end of year 9. They have completed a TMA and will be sitting their first assessment on the whole of the C2 content (year 9 and year 10 work) in the next few weeks. SENECA resources will be set to aid revision.</p>	<p><b>Separate Science Students:</b> Will start the topic of chemical changes (C4) which includes reactions of metals and acids and alkalis. This topic allows much more opportunity for practical experience than the previous bonding topic which is one of the reasons we study this before C3.</p> <p><b>Combined Science Students:</b> Will start the topic of chemical changes (C4) which includes reactions of metals and acids and alkalis. This topic allows much more opportunity for practical experience than the previous bonding topic which is one of the reasons we study this before C3.</p>
<b>Physics</b>	<p><b>Separate Science Students:</b> Are studying the topic of Atomic Structure and Radioactivity. They are building on knowledge from KS3 on the structure of atoms and the development of atomic theory, and gaining new knowledge on nuclear radiation.</p> <p><b>Combined Science Students:</b> Are studying the topic of Atomic Structure and Radioactivity. They are building on knowledge from KS3 on the structure of atoms and the development of atomic theory, and gaining new knowledge on nuclear radiation.</p> <p><b>All:</b> Have completed first TMA and have acted on feedback from staff, and will sit their first assessment around half term, which includes questions on all the work covered in Atomic and Nuclear, plus one question on Forces, which they studied in Year 9.</p>	<p><b>Separate Science Students:</b> After sitting their first test and receiving feedback, including follow-up work on 6-mark questions, the students will begin their studies of the Electricity topic, building on their knowledge from KS3 and using a more mathematical approach to tackle the topic.</p> <p><b>Combined Science Students:</b> After sitting their first test and receiving feedback, including follow-up work on 6-mark questions, the students will begin their studies of the Electricity topic, building on their knowledge from KS3 and using a more mathematical approach to tackle the topic.</p>

## Assessments

Students will be completing their first Science assessments for Biology, Chemistry and Physics after half-term. Students will be informed of the specific dates and the topics to revise for each test. Each will assess the work carried out in Y10 and may also assess some of the Y9 GCSE work. It is essential that students fully prepare for these assessments. Please see below for details of revision resources they can use in their preparation.

## Seneca

All students have now been re-introduced to Seneca and should have logged in and completed an introductory assignment. **Please note – we are using different emails to login this year, as we now have classes synced to the school registers. The students will need to use their emails ending @phs.cheshire.sch.uk, and the initial password is seneca2020.** Seneca is a free online resource which can be used for teacher directed revision, independent revision and to help students consolidate work from previous topics and years. The more students complete on Seneca, the better it tailors tasks personalised to each student and the areas they need to focus on. **If students are not sure how to log in or access their Science class assignments please tell them to ask their Science teacher.** <https://senecalearning.com/en-GB/>

## Revision Guides

The deadline for ordering revision guides has now just passed. If you have ordered one or your child qualifies for pupil premium funding, Revision guides will be given out in science lessons at the beginning of next term. If you have missed the deadline the revision guides can be bought directly from the links below.

### Combined (Double) Science revision guides:

**Higher tier (recommended for students in sets 1 and 2):** <https://www.cgpbooks.co.uk/secondary-books/gcse/science/combined-science/sahr46-new-gcse-combined-science-aqa>

### Foundation tier (recommended for students in sets 3 and 4):

<https://www.cgpbooks.co.uk/secondary-books/gcse/science/combined-science/safr46-new-gcse-combined-science-aqa-revision-guide>

### Separate (Triple) Science students (will need separate ones for Biology, Chemistry and Physics):

<https://www.cgpbooks.co.uk/secondary-books/gcse/science/biology/bar46-new-gcse-biology-aqa-revision-guide-higher-i>

<https://www.cgpbooks.co.uk/secondary-books/gcse/science/chemistry/car46-new-gcse-chemistry-aqa-revision-guide-higher-i>

<https://www.cgpbooks.co.uk/secondary-books/gcse/science/physics/par48-new-gcse-physics-aqa-revision-guide-higher-i>

## Religious Studies

Students have made a positive and successful start to their GCSE Religious Studies course this term. Students have been looking at Christian concepts and ideas about creation, sin, crucifixion and resurrection. They will soon be completing their first end of unit assessment, so they should be making revision maps / cue cards for work completed so far.

Students do not need to purchase published revision guides, but if they do want to refer to other resources, then the link below will guide you to the correct revision materials for this course.

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/AQA-GCSE-Religious-Studies-Christianity/dp/0198422857>

After half term they will be moving on to a topic on the Thematic Studies paper focusing on Religion and Crime and Punishment.

### **History**

Year 10 have completed the Civil Rights topic they began in the summer term of Year 10 and have moved onto studying America's involvement in the war in Vietnam. They have also sat their first GCSE style assessment on the Civil Rights movement and have tried hard to follow the skills they have been developing in class. All students will begin studying the Medicine in Britain unit before Christmas and will complete their second assessment on the war in Vietnam in November.

### **Geography**

Students have started their GCSE geography course with enthusiasm and we are extremely proud of them. They have engaged with the topic of the Challenge of Natural Hazards from their Paper 1 by being conscientious and interested in the topic. A really useful link for all students to save is the BBC Bitesize summary <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zcdrbk7> here students can re-examine the content covered and ensure that they are committing it to their long-term memory. We are currently studying the impacts of 2 earthquakes in contrasting locations to examine why the impacts are so very different before we move onto how to mitigate these hazards. Tropical storms soon follows – a new topic for many students but their continued awareness of global events through our Do Now tasks means that many will be already of the impacts and mitigation strategies of these events.

The Weather Channel on YouTube has lots of detailed information and amazing CGI links to show these impacts and strategies. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGTUbwceCMibvpbd2NaIP7A> Our best advice to all GCSE geographers is to be curious – ask lots of questions about the world around you and the natural hazards that occur every day.

### **MFL**

Well done to Year 10 students for their work this half-term, they have made a great start to their GCSE studies! This year again, we have a really good number of students who have chosen to study both German and French, they have all made a fantastic start too!

Year 10 German are working on relationships, the qualities of a good friend, views on marriage, weekend activities and talking about life when they were younger.

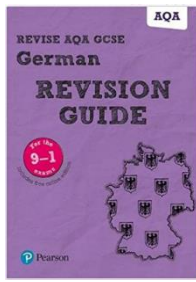
Year 10 French are studying the topic of festivals, food and clothes shopping.

Year 10 students will complete their first set of assessments next half-term in Listening, Reading and Translation. We look forward to some great results!

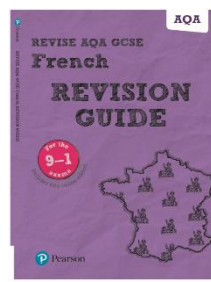
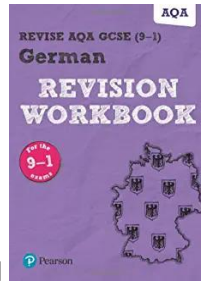
If you would like to order revision guides and workbooks (we recommend you get both as the workbook has exam style questions with answers), you can find links here (click on the pictures):

**German:**

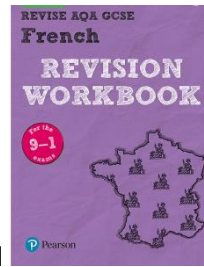
**French:**



and



and



### 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

### GCSE Business

Our Year 10 classes have made an excellent start to the course learning about different types of business ownership as well as the skills and characteristics of successful entrepreneurs. Home Learning for GCSE Business is set each week on Google Classroom. Over the next few weeks we will continue to look at business types moving from smaller businesses to larger ones and even dabble with investing in the stock market. All Year 10 classes will sit their first assessments after half term and they should use the materials on Google Classroom and BBC Bitesize to revise for these.

A great way to help your child become more aware of the business world is to encourage them to watch the news, shows such as Dragon's Den or The Apprentice, read business related articles or podcasts.

In order to support their studies, the following revision guide and workbook is recommended <https://www.amazon.co.uk/My-Revision-Notes-Eduqas-Business/dp/1510426531>

## **Computer Science**

Welcome to all the Year 10 computer scientists, GCSE Computer Science has proved to be a very popular option choice this year, with students realising the importance of the subject and where it can take them. Students have been looking at units and data representation, such as bits and bytes. After half term, we will be moving onto designing, creating and refining algorithms.

With regards to programming at home, students have been recommended to install Python and use the IDLE, in order to improve their programming skills.

## **CNAT iMedia**

Welcome to all the CNAT iMedia students. They have obviously been inspired by the teachers in Year 9, enjoying the creative elements of Computing, as it's the biggest cohort we have ever had! Year 10s have been introduced to the Graphics unit and have been studying how to develop a visual identity for different brands and their target audience. After half term, we will be concentrating on the design elements of graphics and developing their skills in Photoshop and Illustrator.

Students are not allowed to work on their coursework at home. We therefore encourage the students to attend after school catch up sessions, either Wednesdays in rm 29 or Thursdays in rm 28, where their class teacher will be available to offer guidance and support.

## **Art**

Our Year 10 Art students have enjoyed making a start on their Natural Forms project and have produced some excellent observational studies and photographs. They are beginning to explore a range of artists who explore this theme and have been set some work on this to complete over the half term break. Parents should now have received an email regarding the Art Kits that students can purchase from the department, which includes all of the materials that the students will use throughout the course. Please get in touch if you have any further queries regarding this. Students are expected to complete a double page of work for each assignment in their A3 sketchbooks and all instruction guides for each task are set on their Google Classroom.

## **Photography**

This half term the students have been using the school's SLR cameras and are becoming accustomed to the machines through experimentation with shutter speeds. They have learnt how to correctly hold the camera, use the tripods for stability, upload their shots and edit them on Google. The group have taken shots from fast to slow shutter speeds and have also practiced their panning techniques.

All of their photographs are stored on their Google school accounts and used for current and future projects. Next half term the students will be exploring the settings further by concentrating upon aperture and ISO in order to gain more control with the cameras. Students are expected to adhere to all assignment deadlines as they will count towards their GCSE coursework. All learning tasks and guides are set on their Google Classroom and can be accessed at any time in case of absence.

## **Textiles**

Year 10 Textiles have been focusing on fibres and fabrics recently in their theory lessons. They have learnt both natural and synthetic fibres properties, the process of fibres to fabrics, including the different construction methods. Students have all produced a woven sample and a felted sample in lesson. It is important for students to revise the content of these lessons in their own time. All students have a revision guide and workbook with homework questions set regularly on Google Classroom. Please could you remind students to ensure they bring their exercise book, revision guide and workbook to each theory lesson with Mrs Mottram.

During year 10's practical lessons with Miss Mills, students have been focusing on their decorative skills when designing for a children's toy.

### *Section C - Preparing food and Safety*

- ✓ *Preventing cross contamination and food poisoning: direct and indirect methods*
- ✓ *The importance of a healthy diet: Fruit and veg*
- ✓ *How to use the major commodity groups to make a balanced food choice. Eatwell guide*
- ✓ *The application of the eight tips for healthy eating*

### *Section A - Diet-related diseases and conditions: diverticulitis, high blood pressure (salt), anaemia*

#### *Section C - Buying food:*

- ✓ *Labelling and date marks*
- ✓ *Visual checks*
- ✓ *Reputable supplier*

#### *Storing food*

- ✓ *Types of storage and how to store foods correctly*

#### *Cooking and serving food*

*High-risk foods, critical temperatures*

## **Food Preparation and Nutrition**

Students this half term have been focussing on both theory and practical. The GCSE course is split into two (practical and theory) both being weighted at 50% each. The theory is split into 3 sections which are:

- Section A – Nutrition
- Section B – Food Provenance and Food Choice
- Section C – Cooking and Food Preparation

This half term for the theory students have focussed on:

Each student has a homework book and a homework is set after each topic has been covered.

The practical's which have been covered this half term are jambalaya (cross contamination, cutting meat) and jam tarts (using pastry and preservation in jam). During each practical students will use a new skill as well as relating the practical to the work that they have been doing in their theory lessons.

Next half term, students will continue with the theory looking at the different nutrients and making dishes such as vegetable curry, potato rosti and cottage pie.



## **Product Design**

This half term students have done a mix of theory and practical lessons.

In theory lessons students have been focussing on 'New and Emerging Technologies'. This has created discussions around sustainability, the environment and people, culture and the society that we live in.

In practical lessons students have completed a stool model. Students measured the size of a stool in the workshop and then scaled their measurements down to  $\frac{1}{4}$ . Then, using appropriate modelling materials students created their model. Students came out with some fantastic outcomes.

In the final week before half term we have started a USB Animal Fan project. In this project students will get the opportunity to understand wood joints, practice their electronics skills as well as shaping aluminium. Alongside this project the theory will be incorporated so that students are able to understand the technical side and the theory behind it. This will continue into next half term.

## **CNAT Sports Studies**

Our year 10 students have made a really positive start to their CNAT Sport Studies Qualification. The students have completed their introductory tasks and have been given an in-depth introduction to the course and what is expected of them throughout the next two years with regards to assessment conditions in lessons and their hard work in both theory and practical lessons. All groups have made an excellent start! In upcoming lessons, our Year 10 students will begin their first assignment and begin to contribute to their overall grade, as they look to start their R186: Sport and The Media unit, with a focus on sports clubs involved in Track Cycling, Volleyball and Table Tennis. In practical lessons, our students will be being assessed in football, netball and badminton for this first half term. Keep up the excellent start you have made, Year 10!

## **GCSE PE**

Students have made a positive start to GCSE PE. They have covered Factors affecting Participation and Commercialisation of Sport in theory lessons. Students have been doing netball in their practical lessons.

Students competing in sports outside of school will need to start gaining their external practical video evidence. Please could you start videoing full competitive games if your child takes part outside of school. If you need further assistance for this, please email Mrs Kennedy who is their class teacher.

Students should be continually revising and looking over the theory content in preparation of the interleaving assessments for PE.

## **Drama**

Students have been exploring their Set Text- 'Find Me' through workshopping and discussion.

At this stage they will have copies of the text and will be beginning to consider their own ideas about ways to bring the text from 'page to stage' as designers and as performers.

Students have also been looking at storytelling and techniques alongside working with others (many of whom may be new to them). Into next term they will begin to explore their chosen practitioner - Bertolt Brecht - and might begin to research around this over half term. Students will now have notebooks and have started recording their progress through workshops in these.

### **Dance**

Well done for making a positive start.

Year 10 are busy learning all new terminology through practical activities, and have produced some excellent work. Their written lesson is Week 2 Period 2, please ask them to keep an eye on Google Classroom for any work.

### **Uniform**

Details of our uniform policy can be found here:

<https://www.phs.cheshire.sch.uk/aboutus/schooluniform>

### **Equipment**

- 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 their own scissors and glue!

### **Free school meals**

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

Phone 0300 123 5012 for further information and help or you can apply online at [https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/schools/school-meals/free\\_school\\_meals.aspx](https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/schools/school-meals/free_school_meals.aspx)

### **Child and Adolescent Mental Health**

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!

MyMind provides advice and guidance around the key topics identified as most important to young people and their families: how to cope with mental health challenges, how to get help and what to do in a crisis.

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.

Visit [www.MyMind.org.uk](http://www.MyMind.org.uk)

### **Thank you**

Thank you for all of your hard work year 10 and well done on such a brilliant half term. Have a lovely and restful holiday and we will look forward to welcoming you all back on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October.

Please contact us if there are any issues or if you have any questions at all.  
Thank you for your continued support.

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Welfare Leader to key stage 4