



Poynton High School
Year 11 Parent and Carer Bulletin – October 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Year 11 have made a fantastic start to 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 contain 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 11 information evening is linked here:

<https://www.phs.cheshire.sch.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=1227&type=pdf>

Year 11 students will be sitting their mock exams next half term. They have received a paper copy of the exam timetable. A copy is linked below for you to support them with their revision and being prepared for the exams. I will be sending out more information regarding the mock exams after half term.

<https://www.phs.cheshire.sch.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=1252&type=pdf>

After half term on a Tuesday there will be a Year 11 Year 11 Study drop in session in room 36 where students can come to do their own revision and homework. Miss Dovey will be there to support them with their revision. This will run 3:25-4:15pm. Also running on a Tuesday in room 33 is a Year 11 Welfare drop in session where students can drop in to speak to Miss Hollingworth if they have any welfare concerns. This will run 3:15-3:45pm.

Important dates

- Assessment 1: 18/09/23 – 06/10/23
- Progress Grades: 31/10/23
- Mock Speaking Exams: 27/11/23 – 01/12/23
- Mock Exams: 04/12/23 – 21/12/23
- Reports: 24/01/24
- Parents Evening (online): 25/01/24
- Mock Exams: 26/02/24 – 01/03/24

- Progress Grades: 23/04/24
- GCSE Exams: 09/05/24 – 26/06/24
- Leavers Day and Prom: 27/06/24

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.

PHS Sixth Form Open Evening

You will have already received an invite to the Sixth Form Open Evening. This is taking place on **Wednesday 16th November 2023 from 5.30 p.m. to 8.30 p.m.** This event will enable you to find out what our successful Sixth Form offers students and we hope that we will see you and your young person at the evening.

English

- 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 the both Language and Literature GCSEs;
- 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
- 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 exercise books 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 regularly and to the best of their ability.
- Supported Study sessions will begin soon on a Thursday afterschool in Room 29;
- For English Language:
 - Speaking and Listening task to be completed in class before Christmas;
 - Paper 2 Mock to be completed next half term
 - Further internal assessment to take place after Christmas.
- For English Literature:
 - 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

Students should be beginning to prepare for their upcoming mock exams next half term. They will sit two papers, one calculator and one non-calculator. It is important at this stage to ensure students have access to a scientific calculator. As this is a GCSE mock examination, all topics over

year 10 and year 11 will be assessed. As we move towards the end of the GCSE course there will be opportunity to revisit previous topics in preparation for this. From these assessments we will be able to give students a mock grade, very much like they will be receiving in the summer exam series.

Year 11 continue to be set three pieces of homework over their two week cycle. One piece being a written task, another piece is a Dr Frost task and the third piece a revision task as part of their ongoing independent revision; the use of Dr Frost Maths or Seneca Learning is recommended for these. Once all of the data is collected for the maths mocks we will input their individual data into the AQA tracking programme which will then generate individual revision lists for the students. Students should use this, along with other areas they may have identified themselves, to focus their revision where it is needed most. In addition to using Dr Frost and Seneca 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
Biology	<p>Separate Science Students: Are completing their topic on Coordination and Control and soon moving onto their next topic on Genetics</p> <p>Combined Science Students: Are continuing their Coordination and Control Topic and will learn about control of the reproductive system</p> <p>All: Completed test 1 on paper 2 content stretching back to Y9. They should have identified targets to improve and use revision guides and SENECA to work on these.</p>	<p>All: Will be following a Chunked Revision programme using past exam questions and SENECA to prepare for their Paper 1 December Mock Examinations</p>
Chemistry	<p>Separate Science Students: Have evaluated and set targets based on the recent test. They have finished off and revised the topic of rates of reaction and began to study organic chemistry.</p> <p>Combined Science Students: Have completed test 1 on part of the paper 2 topic rates of reaction. They should have identified targets to improve and use revision guides and SENECA to work on these. They will complete their study of this topic by the end of the half term.</p>	<p>Separate Science Students: Students will continue to study organic chemistry. They will also begin using chunked revision to help to prepare for their Paper 1 December mock examinations</p> <p>Combined Science Students: Will be following a Chunked Revision programme using past exam questions and SENECA to help them prepare for their Paper 1 December mock examinations</p>
Physics	<p>Separate Science Students: Have completed and revised the Forces</p>	<p>Separate Science Students:</p>

	<p>topic, including sitting and receiving feedback on a test. They are now moving on to the Waves topic, which looks at various types of waves and how they interact in our world.</p> <p>Combined Science Students: Have completed and revised the Forces topic, including sitting and receiving feedback on a test. They are now moving on to the Waves topic, which looks at various types of waves and how they interact in our world.</p> <p>All: Completed test 1 on paper 2 content. They have received feedback on this test, including an in-depth focus on scale drawing for Higher tier students and graph skills for Foundation tier students.</p>	<p>Students will continue their studies of Waves, which includes a Required Practical to measure the speed of waves formed on water or on a string. They will also begin using chunked revision to help them prepare for their Paper 1 December mock examinations</p> <p>Combined Science Students: Students will continue their studies of Waves, which includes a Required Practical to measure the speed of waves formed on water or on a string. They will also begin using chunked revision to help them prepare for their Paper 1 December mock examinations</p>
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Assessments

All students will have completed an assessment this first half term and will have received feedback on this in lessons.

In addition, Y11 Science students will sit 2 mock examinations this academic year:

- **Mock Examinations in December:** These will assess the Paper 1 content of the course. All students will sit 3 separate papers (one for each of the Sciences). These assessments will commence week beginning 4th December
- **Mock Examinations in February/March:** These will assess the Paper 2 content of the course. All students will sit 3 separate papers (one for each of the Sciences). These assessments will commence 26th February.

Revision for Paper 1 mock in December

To help support your child in preparing for the upcoming Science GCSE mock exams in December, the Science team has coordinated several revision resources to help ensure students are fully prepared. We would really appreciate your support in encouraging your son/daughter to complete these tasks. These include:

Science Six

Students have been set this task on Google Classroom every 2 weeks to complete in the back of the relevant science books. It is essential students complete these tasks to ensure they recap paper 1 content from Y9 and Y10.

Chunked revision

All students will be set revision tasks/past paper questions to complete for Biology, Chemistry and Physics. These will be set in designated weekly 'chunks' starting the week before October half term (16th October). There will be tasks to complete for each science over half term, and then one question/task per science will be set each week leading up to their December mock exams. Student should revise the topics of the questions each week and then complete the exam questions to apply their knowledge and practice exam technique.

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 @pfs.cheshire.sch.uk, and the initial password is seneca2020.** Seneca is a free online resource which we will use for teacher directed revision. Students can also use it for independent revision to help them 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/> . Class teachers will set teacher-directed work on here to complete in preparation for the mock examinations.

Revision guides

The majority of students purchased these last year. If your child does not have one and you would like them to have one, below are details of how you can order directly from CGP:

Double Science revision guides:

Higher tier: <https://www.cgpbooks.co.uk/secondary-books/gcse/science/combined-science/sahr45-grade-9-1-gcse-combined-science-aqa-revi>

Foundation tier: <https://www.cgpbooks.co.uk/secondary-books/gcse/science/combined-science/safr45-grade-9-1-gcse-combined-science-aqa-revi>

Triple science students (will need separate ones for Biology, Chemistry and Physics):

<https://www.cgpbooks.co.uk/secondary-books/gcse/science/biology/bar45-grade-9-1-gcse-biology-aqa-revision-guide>

<https://www.cgpbooks.co.uk/secondary-books/gcse/science/chemistry/car45-grade-9-1-gcse-chemistry-aqa-revision-gui>

<https://www.cgpbooks.co.uk/secondary-books/gcse/science/physics/par47-grade-9-1-gcse-physics-aqa-revision-guide>

Religious Studies

Students have made a positive and successful start to the Year 11 course. They have been learning about some of the complex ideas within Buddhism and the Dharma, rebirth and nirvana. These are very challenging ideas, which students have tackled with curiosity and an open mind.

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 students will be spending time with their class teachers revising for the forthcoming mock examinations and studying Religion and Life, one of the topics on the Thematic Studies paper.

History

Year 11 are coming to the end of their unit on the American West and have successfully completed their first assessment of Year 11 on the same topic. There is one unit left of the GCSE course and students will be beginning this before Christmas, this unit focuses on the Reigns of King Richard and King John.

As you will be aware, students will be sitting their mock examination in December, there will be 2 History papers, one on the American West and one on the USA: Conflict at Home and Abroad. Students should be completing their weekly revision homework to help prepare for these mock examinations but should also be making revision notes, in the form of mind maps, revision clocks and flash cards.

Geography

Our year 11 geographers are approaching an exciting time of year when they consider their next steps after GCSEs and the topic that we are studying at the moment links superbly not only into A level Geography but also into other subjects such as Business Studies and Economics. Our Changing Economic World challenges students to understand how countries such as India are developing rapidly but also the changing economic face of the United Kingdom in the last 100 years and potentially into the future. The BBC Bitesize website is now much more closely aligned with the exam content <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zg93ycw> and this enables students in the Preparation stage of their revision to ensure that their notes are detailed enough for the performance stage – and there are tests on the BBC Bitesize to help with this stage as well. Ensuring that students practise their maths skills that are also found in their geography lessons and exams is also important at this stage and the link here <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zyhd6fr/revision/1> is a really useful one with clips and texts to allow practise as well as the teachers using past questions in lessons.

MFL

Well done to Year 11 students for their work this half-term! Year 11 German are working on Module 6 on education, past present future and healthy lifestyles. Year 11 Spanish are developing their skills on the topic of food, daily routine, comparing festivals and special occasions

Year 11 students have completed their first written assessments this half-term. These give staff a better idea of where students are at after the summer break and an indication of which tier they will sit in December.

Next half-term, we will concentrate on preparing for the Mock exams. They will follow the full format of the exams and will cover all the GCSE topics:

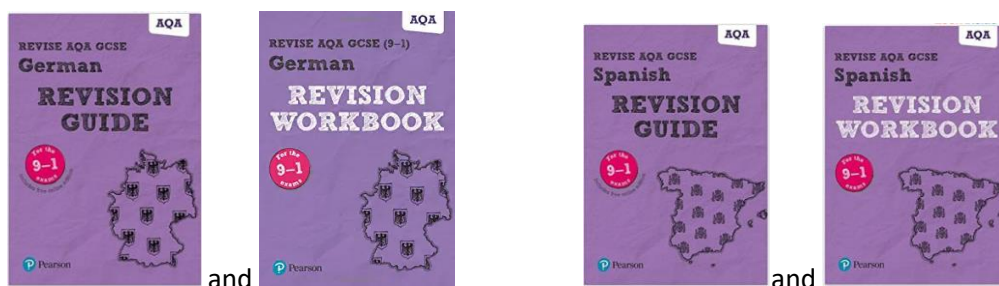
- Reading [25%], Listening [25%] and Writing [25%] will be assessed under exam conditions during the calendared mock exams
- Speaking [25%] (these will take place between the 14th and 19th December. Each teacher will give individual appointments to their students.)

In the mock exam, students will be entered at either Foundation (grades 1-5) or Higher tier(grades 3-9).

Students had the opportunity to purchase revisions guides. If you didn't order them through school, you can the guides here (click on the pictures):

German:

Spanish:



Useful websites:

Most classes have used www.memrise.com, www.quizlet.com or 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 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 11s are working on Unit 2, looking at the external environment of business. This important topic will feature on both Paper 1 and Paper 2 of the summer examinations. Students should try and find out more about the external environment by reading articles, watching the news and looking at economic information such as exchange rates and interest rates. Students recently sat an assessment using the new Eduqas papers and will receive the grades for this before half term. Students also enjoyed a visit from Just Ice in Poynton, where they learned about the day to day operations of an ethical business before visiting the store on Park Lane to see this in action and sample the products. Home Learning is set using Seneca and Google Classroom and students should be completing this weekly as an excellent source of revision for their mock examinations. The revision guide and workbook for the course is <https://www.amazon.co.uk/My-Revision-Notes-Eduqas-Business/dp/1510426531>

CNAT Enterprise and Marketing

Students have now completed R068 and will receive their final results in December. They are due to submit R069 in January so will receive their scores for this unit following the deadline on

19th October. Students will then work to prepare for their R067 and their mock examination will focus on the following topics:

- Enterprise and Entrepreneurs
- The risks and rewards of starting a business
- Market research
- Market segmentation
- Revenue, costs, profit and breakeven
- Advertising methods, sales promotion and public relations

A revision guide and workbook can be purchased here <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Cambridge-National-Enterprise-Marketing-Revision/dp/100910649X>

Computer Science

Year 11s have started the year by recapping networks and network security. They have progressed onto looking at advanced programming techniques, in preparation for starting their Programming Project.

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

Since returning to school in September, Year 11 students have been working on their Interactive Digital Presentation unit. They have been learning how to design and create media assets which will engage the target audience. This unit of work will be completed by January, allowing plenty of time to prepare for the examination unit.

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

This term, our Year 11 Art students have been working hard to complete the artist research stage of their Portraits project. After the half term break they will begin the design idea stages of the project. Students will be applying their artist knowledge and their practical skills into three design ideas over double pages. They will then select their strongest design to use to produce a final piece. The students have been set a double page task to complete over the half term break.

Photography

The Year 11 students have been continuing their exploration of the theme 'Distorted Portraits'. This project was started in the summer term and it has been developed through completing practical photoshoots on lighting patterns and the use of coloured lighting. Student's have also produced physically distorted faces with various materials and props, including glass bottles, elastic bands,

sellotape, pressing faces up against windows, using glass spheres and combinations of the above. Many thanks to the willing models who posed for some of these shots at home, your efforts were greatly appreciated and admired.

The next phase will be digitally distorting faces using Photoshop and other image editing software. Students will study the work of visual artists who use digital and physical collaging before tackling different techniques to produce interesting outcomes. There are many image editing apps available and students will be using different ones for different outcomes. They will be using a fragmented process in the production of distorted portraits by studying David Hockney and other relevant visual artists.

There will be a research task to complete over the half term in readiness for this next stage.

Textiles

Year 11 Textiles have been focusing on their individual NEA projects with Mrs Mottram. They have made an excellent start to their NEA in which they are focusing on their chosen title from the examining board, AQA. Recently students have been developing their ideas and we plan to be making their products next term.

Students are encouraged to attend the catch – up sessions with Mrs Mottram after school every Wednesday in either room 59 or 54. These sessions are one hour long and will give students the opportunity to have one-to-one guidance for their individual projects.

We have an opportunity for a trip to the knit and stitch show for KS4 and a letter will be issued before the half term. The knit and stitch show is a fantastic opportunity for students to explore a variety of different skills being demonstrated and they can also source materials for their NEA projects.

Food Preparation and Nutrition

To start this year, students have been working on their NEA (Non-Exam Assessment) 1 which is 15% of their final grade.

On 1st September 2023 the exam board, OCR, released the titles for the NEA 1. The titles are:
EITHER

1 Investigate, research and evaluate the working characteristics, functional and chemical properties of sugar used for caramelisation (before carrying out the investigations).

Caramelisation can be used to add colour and flavour to food. Explore and scientifically investigate the changes that occur when sugar is used for caramelisation. Explain scientifically what happens. Analyse and evaluate your results.

OR

2 Investigate, research and evaluate the working characteristics, functional and chemical properties of steam as a raising agent (before carrying out the investigations).

Steam is used as a raising agent in some baked dishes. Explore and scientifically investigate the changes that occur when steam is used as a raising agent in baked dishes. Explain scientifically what happens.

Analyse and evaluate your results.

Each student has chosen their title and has created a written report based on this. As a part of this students have also conducted experiments to go alongside their written report.

As well as the NEA, students have also been going over the theory element of the course and finishing off the specification.

Next half term we will focus on revision and beginning to prepare for the mocks in December, finishing the NEA 1 and beginning the NEA 2 which will be released from the exam board on 1st November 23.

Students have been using the following help guide: <https://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/423464-food-investigation-task-1-student-guide.pdf>

Product Design

Students started their NEA (Non-exam assessment) which is 50% of their final GCSE grade before the Summer holiday. They have been continuing with this and the theory element of the course since starting back in September.

Students have been working hard on their NEA and are now onto their initial ideas which includes a sketch, using sketch up and a model of their design.

The NEA is time consuming and so students do need to be adding to this in their own time. There is a catch-up session available to all students on Thursday's after school. I would highly recommend that students use this opportunity.

Alongside the NEA, we have been continuing to work on the theory element of the course. Students have recently completed an assessment based on 'timbers' which is Section B of the paper. Students need to begin to start their revision resources and thinking of the 3 P's which are 'Performance, Preparation and Progress'.

It is suggested that students buy the Edexcel revision guide. Edexcel is our exam board so please make sure to buy the correct revision guide. https://www.amazon.co.uk/My-Revision-Notes-Pearson-Technology/dp/1510480501/ref=sr_1_4?crid=3U0SJE5UA8KDU&keywords=edexcel+design+and+technology&qid=1697534544&srefix=edexcel+design+and+technology+%2Caps%2C3695&sr=8-4

CNAT Sports Studies

Our year 11 students have been working hard in both theory and practical elements of the course as they continue to complete their review of their recent leadership sessions which they led fantastically on the Tuesday 3rd and Wednesday 4th October to our year 7 and year 8 students. Students have been working hard on their last ever piece of coursework, the review of their

leadership session, where they evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of their recent session. Once this has been completed, our students will be preparing for their R184 Exam, which they will sit in the summer. We continue to offer catch up club for our students every Thursday in room 7 from 3:15pm to 4:15pm.

GCSE PE

Students have been focusing on ensuring the practical side of the course is covered through attendance at athletics events, and activities such as basketball, football and netball during lessons. Any students who have external video evidence must make sure that this is submitted to their PE teacher (Mr Henderson or Miss Wilson) before Christmas.

After Christmas, students will be finishing their controlled assessment, which is a piece of coursework that is worth 10% of student's final grade.

Students need to make sure they are continually revising and looking over the theory content in preparation for interleaving assessments and mock exams.

Drama

Many students have been working hard to ensure their component 1 production is 1. Planned and 2. Well-rehearsed!

These should be ready for the full day technical rehearsal in late January (**one of the following but TBC- 11th 12th and 18th 19th Jan**)

and the evening performance (**31st Jan/ 1st Feb – also TBC**)

Students opting for design should aim to have their actual design items and any materials and evidence in place before the mock exam period in December.

Students will also have started their 'creative log' / 'portfolio' by now and have a regular attendance each week at the catch up/rehearsal sessions provided after-school on Wed and/or Thurs in Room 1

Dance

Well done on making a positive start. Year 11 have had their choreography questions set and should be busy researching their ideas to produce a high quality piece of choreography. It is also vital in terms of revision that Year 11 students complete the PowerPoint set every week in order to learn all of the terminology. This will really help them with the first section of the written examination. Their written lesson is week 1 Monday period 2.

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

Child and Adolescent Mental Health

Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust's (CWP) nationally recognised Child and Adolescent Mental Health website 'MyMind' is a dedicated website for young people across Cheshire and Wirral experiencing mental health difficulties.

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

Thank you

Thank you for all of your hard work year 11 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 30th 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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