



Poynton High School



Year 7 Parent and Carer Bulletin – October 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our first half term bulletin and what a half term it has been! We have been so impressed with our students in Year 7 with their ability to adapt to high school life. Students have been collecting a phenomenal amount of house points with many students reaching their bronze award and no doubt there will be plenty more next term. Students have been attending lots of extra-curricular clubs from the sports teams to science club to Kendama in languages. It is truly wonderful to see the students get so involved, especially our new starters who are part of our Grease production, which will take place next term.

Please note: School closes at 3.15pm on Friday 20th October
School reopens on Monday 30th October on week 2 of the timetable

What to expect to find in the bulletin?

- Subject updates
- CATS tests
- How to help your young person with their learning
 - Uniform
 - Free School Meals
 - Mental Health support
 - Important dates
 - Review week information
 - Travel to and from school
- Mobile phone and social media safety advice

Subject updates...

MATHS

Our year 7 students have settled well into Maths. They were tested and put into sets within the first few weeks of joining us, and have started working on new topics in their new sets. Our first topic was Sequences, where students looked for patterns with objects and numbers. Next, they moved onto Algebra, learning how to distinguish between $5y$ and $y + 5$ and looking at function machines. Some classes have been using Algebra tiles to help with their understanding. Next, we move onto Equality, going from “equals gives the answer” to considering that it shows that either side of the equals sign is equivalent.

Students should be getting regular written homework and by half term should have been introduced to 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 **Year 7 Course** to keep your skills at their best.

After half term there will be another assessment to show us how much they have learned since arriving at Poynton.

Halloween Maths Challenge



How many different ways can you rearrange the letters in the following words

- a) BAT
- b) FANG
- c) GHOST



Without listing them, can you predict how many different ways there are to rearrange the words in the word SPIDER.

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

ENGLISH

Year 7 Students' Engaging Journey into Literature and Storytelling!

We are delighted to share the fantastic progress of our Year 7 students during this term! Our young students have settled remarkably well into our English classrooms, and we can't wait to tell you about their literary adventures.

This term, we've embarked on a captivating educational journey known as 'Stories through Time.' In this unit, we delve into the origins of storytelling and the significance of storytelling in human culture. Our students will take a captivating tour through Greek Mythology, Norse Mythology, and timeless fairy tales.

But that's not all! They'll wrap up the term by crafting their own unique versions of these classic tales.

Assessments:

This term, students will be showcasing their creativity through two exciting assessments:

A short narrative inspired by the captivating story, *My Father is a Polar Bear*.

A reimagined version of a traditional fairy tale, adding their unique twist to a timeless classic.

KS3 Reading Log Initiative...

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.

Library Lesson Integration (Year 7 and Year 8):

In addition to their reading assignment, Year 7 and Year 8 students will receive a specific task linked to their learning in the library lesson. This task will enhance their research and information literacy skills while connecting their English studies to other subjects.

Year 7, 8 and 9 Revision and Review:

We expect students to complete all classwork to the best of their ability. This includes inspecting their English exercise book and making any needed revisions or additions. For instance, we may request that your child review their spelling inventory (located at the back of their exercise book) and try using these words in different contexts.

We also encourage parents/guardians to join in the review process by examining their child's exercise book alongside them. This collaborative effort can greatly benefit their academic progress.

We will provide reminders for all homework assignments online through Google Classroom.

Are you struggling with your English homework?

Don't worry, we're here to help!

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.

SCIENCE

This term students have completed the transition unit on bubbles and started their first 3 Science topics which include the following:

7B1 – Cells

7C1 – Particles

7P1- Magnets

In each topic, students have been set a TMA (teacher marked assessment) which provides them with written feedback on how they have performed, along with a mini quiz on Google Classroom. In the Cells topics students have had the opportunity to make a 3D model of a specialised cell of their choice. House points were given for the best models and some of these will be displayed in room 16A!!

Students will complete their first assessment on the above topics in November. To help them prepare for this the following pages in the revision guide will be useful:

7B1 Cells- revision guide pages 1-3, practice questions pages 5-6 Q1,3,4 Page 175 Q3

7C1- Particles- revision guide pages 48-56, practice questions pages 53-4 Q1,2

7P1- Magnets- revision guide pages 158-159, practice questions page 160 Q1,2

We recommended that students purchase the CGP Key Stage 3 revision guide. Information went out about this on sims in touch and payment through myEVOLVE. This revision guide is suitable for Y7 and 8. If students haven't already bought this they can online, on amazon. Using this link:

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

We have introduced students to Seneca, this is an online interactive platform which students can work through independently to consolidate their learning. We will also set some revision assignments on here in preparation for their forthcoming assessments in November.

Challenge activities:

To support their current science topics students may want to watch the following activities. Manchester Science and Industry Museum is also a great day out and free!! There are lots of hands on interactive activities which students can try, some of these will support their learning of current topics covered in school.

7B1- Cells <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M1wdIdCOK-Y>

7C1- Particles <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0lUDh6rrb6E>

7P1- Magnets <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=av7VrSezpHg>

MFL

Well done to Year 7 students for their work this half-term! They have settled really well in their language lessons and are making impressive progress. Students have learned to introduce themselves, sing the alphabet and describing personality in German. Students have been learning about the German tradition of the Zuckertüte (sugar cones), a cone filled with sweets, stationery and toys that children receive on their first day at school. They tried making their own too!

In French lessons, students have made really good progress. They have been learning how to introduce themselves, say their age, how they feel and why. They have also started talking about other people.

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 7 students who have entered the word hunt and the linguistics activities. Our annual Bake off competition was also a huge success with a great 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, www.quizlet.com www.blooket.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

HUMANITIES

RS

Year 7 has made a brilliant start to the year in RS. So far we have been working on ultimate questions and have looked at ideas such as how was the world made and why there is evil. After half term we will be looking at Religion and the community to see how religion affects communities and some of the different religious festivals that help bring communities together.

History

Year 7 have made a very enthusiastic start to History at Poynton and have been engaging in our lessons very well. They have enjoyed their first topic on the Romans and have put some of their knowledge from primary school to good use in lessons to help develop their knowledge of this time period. Students have also begun to develop the skills that they will need to become successful KS3 historians; this half term we have looked at chronology, sources of information and writing balanced responses. We look forward to teaching the students our next topic on why people died so young in the Middle Ages after half term.

Geography

Our year 7 geographers have settled in brilliantly to their studies with enthusiasm and have brought lots of geographical expertise with them! We are revisiting our map skills from KS2 but based around Fantastic Places around the world, such as the city of Rio de Janeiro and the great River Ganges which is so important to the people who live along its course. We will also be studying the frozen landscapes of Svalbard and the mighty Victoria Falls – using skills and ideas that will underpin all of their geography studies in the future. We will be guiding students through their first piece of extended writing and showing them how to create written work that really shows their knowledge. They will have the opportunity to create their own 'Landscape in a Box' of an amazing geographical location that they have already visited or would love to visit one day. As ever we encourage our students to watch programmes around the subject such as the brilliant documentaries on YouTube by David Attenborough here

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL1YxUBRBoo8aZ90JLVLCK4KaFMwRmvAo> and visit websites that show them how amazing our earth is such as this one

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/z3dkkty> 'Six of the most wonderfully coloured places around the earth'.

TECHNOLOGY

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 something that we really value so that students are able to use the workshop safely throughout their time at PHS.

Following on from this, students have started the Blockhead project. Each student throughout Year 7 will design and make a blockhead out of pine and decorate it once they have created their block.

This half term students have learnt and practiced their isometric skills and starting to design their Blockhead.

Next half term, they will begin to make their Blockhead.

Textiles

During this academic term Year 7 have been researching cultures and designing their device holders. Their device holders will include techniques such as, tie-dye, stencilling, hand embroidery and use of the sewing machine for construction. Recently students have practiced the four different tie-dye techniques and are analysing their samples to decided which technique would be the most suitable for their product. After the half term break students will be tie-dyeing their chosen technique for their product. We will then begin our stencilling sampling to perfect the technique for our final products.

Food Preparation and Nutrition

During this academic term Year 7 have been focusing on key skills in Food. These include, knife skills, using the grill, using the oven, rubbing in method. 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.

Computing

Students have settled in brilliantly in their Computing lessons. They have got to grips with how to log onto the school network as well as how to use Google Classroom and all its features. Students have started the curriculum by studying how to use technology online respectfully. Topics that we have discussed have included staying safe online, cyberbullying and how to communicate with peers online. After half term, students will be moving onto programming with Scratch. They will learn all about programming and sequencing. They will also learn some important Computing techniques including; selection, iteration and important operators. They will get the chance to create their own games and solve problems using this graphical, block based programming language.

All Year 7 are invited to come along to our extra-curricular STEM Club. It runs on Friday lunchtime, in rm 29. Students will get the opportunity to build their own robots and programme them to do fun things. Numbers are limited, please email Mrs Bemowski Head of Computing if you'd like to attend db@phs.cheshire.sch.uk

PE

In PE over the first term students have completed a range of activities such as rugby, badminton, dance, netball, orienteering. 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.

Please see below for the PE extra-curricular timetables. 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.



PHS PE After School Activities 2023

Half Term 2



All pupils welcome to attend any PE extra-curricular club.

Make sure you have your full PE kit to take part in after-school clubs

Day	Activity	Time	Location
Monday	Netball Training (ALL YEARS) (AKE)	3.15pm—4.15pm	Leisure Centre / Hard Courts
Tuesday	Year 8 Dance Club (CLH)	3.15pm—4.15pm	Dance Studio
	Girls Cricket (ALL YEARS) (JLH)	3.15pm—4.15pm	GYM
	Basketball (ALL YEARS) (KAS)	3.15pm—4.15pm	Leisure Centre
Wednesday	Boys Football Training (ALL YEARS)	3.15pm—4.15pm	Field
	Year 7 Dance Club	3.15pm—4.15pm	Dance Studio
	Netball Fixtures (AKE)	Tbc	Teams will receive info
Thursday	Badminton (ALL YEARS) (CEW)	3.15pm—4.15pm	Leisure Centre
	Girls Football (JLH)	3.15pm—4.15pm	Field
	Year 9 Dance Club	3.15pm—4.15pm	Dance Studio
	Rugby (ALL YEARS) (CME)	3.15pm—4.15pm	Field
	CNAT Study Hour	3.15pm—4.15pm	Room 7



PHS PE LUNCH TIME Activities 2023

Half Term 2



Clubs will be in the Leisure Centre. All welcome on your Year day

Bring trainers.

No food allowed in the Sportshall

Day	Activity	Time	Location
Monday	Week 1 = Year 7 FOOTBALL	1.40pm - 2.10pm	Leisure Centre
	Week 2 = Year 10 FOOTBALL		
Tuesday			
Wednesday	Week 1 = Year 8 FOOTBALL	1.40pm - 2.10pm	Leisure Centre
	Week 2 = Year 11 FOOTBALL		
Thursday			
Friday	Week 1 = Year 9 FOOTBALL	1.40pm - 2.10pm	Leisure Centre
	Week 2 = Year 11 FOOTBALL		

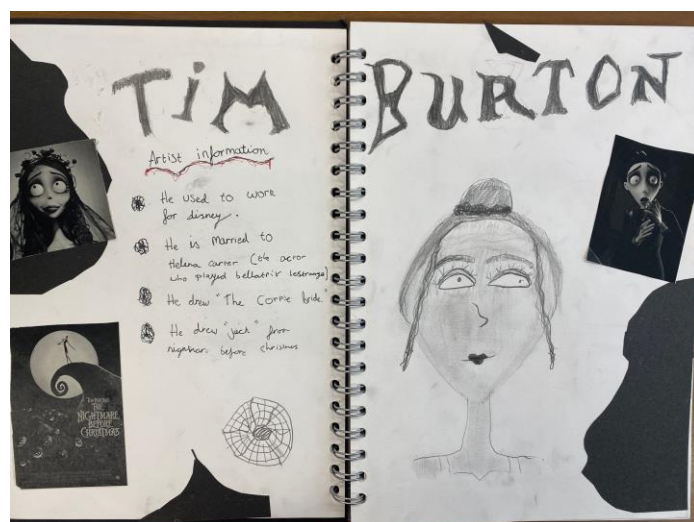
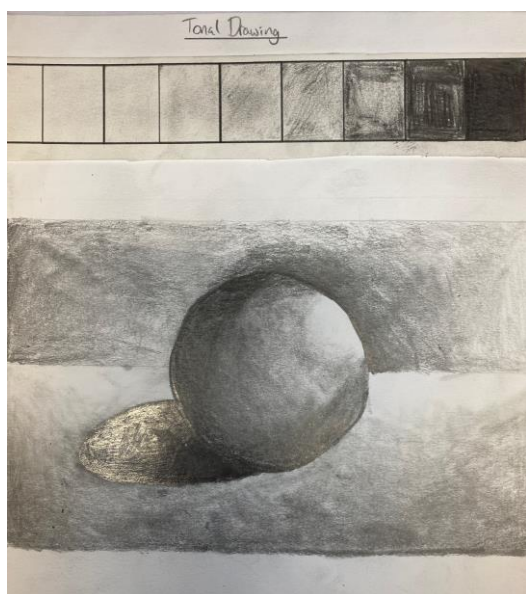
Dance

Well done and thank you for all of those who helped out at Open Evening the students were absolutely fabulous. Year 7 Dance Club is every Wednesday 3.20 – 4.10 pm in the Dance studio. All new members welcome, we will be busy creating pieces for our Annual Dance Showcase.

Art

This term, the Year 7 artists have been learning about Tonal Value in their lessons. They have learnt how to make objects appear three dimensional by using different shading techniques. The students have been practicing with paper blenders and a range of pencils to achieve the correct tones in their drawings. They have also just begun to look at the work of Tim Burton and his use of dramatic tonal contrasts, effective lighting techniques and gothic style in his films and character designs. Next term, the students will have their own portrait photos digitally transformed into a Tim Burton character and learn how to use the grid method technique to accurately draw themselves in proportion and demonstrate their understanding of tone.

We also have some exciting news for next term! Miss Blackshaw and our A-Level Art students will be running an after-school Art club for KS3 students to attend on Thursdays. If your child would be interested in attending, please tell them to speak to their Art teacher for more information.





Year 7 CATs Tests

During the first two weeks after half term, all of Year 7 will be sitting the online CAT4 test. The Cognitive Abilities Test (CAT4) is an assessment that is designed to help students and their teachers understand how they learn and what their academic potential might be. It assesses how students think in areas that are known to make a difference to learning. Students will complete the online test during two of their scheduled lessons between Tuesday 31st October and Monday 13th November. There is no need for students to prepare for the test in any way. Students will be given all instructions needed during the assessment, both on screen and via verbal instructions delivered through headphones.

For further information please read the FAQ sheet at the end of this bulletin or click on this link to view a short video:

<https://youtu.be/U0DDUKuQtKc?si=6RhDvcl1QmPVmeCO>

Helping your young person with their learning

A guide to support your child with their learning can be found on our website in the 'Parents' section via the following link: <https://www.phs.cheshire.sch.uk/parents/helping-your-child-with-learning>

Support with google classroom can be found here
<https://www.phs.cheshire.sch.uk/pastoral/year7>

Uniform

As we approach the colder/wetter months we encourage students to wear a coat to and from school. However, we do ask that they are taken off inside the building.

Please note that hoodies are not part of the school uniform and must not be worn under blazers.

Equally, for PE students are encouraged to wear layers which are appropriate underneath their PE kit but no hoodies.

We appreciate parents and carers invest a lot of money in school coats and uniform, please make sure that all items are named to make them easier for them to be returned if they are misplaced.

Free school meals info

Please click the link to see if you qualify for FSM

https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/schools/school-meals/free_school_meals.aspx

Child and Adolescent Mental Health

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!

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.

Important dates

Effort grades issued – Tuesday 5th December

Review week – Tuesday 12th December – Friday 15th December

School closes for Christmas – Friday 22nd December at 12.30pm

Student Development Day – Thursday 23rd November

Grease performances - 27th-29th November & 1st-2nd December

Review week

This year for our new Y7 cohort you will have the opportunity to attend a Review Day. This will either be a face to face or an online appointment to discuss how your young person has settled into High School. It will be a chance for you to discuss how they are getting on and what are their strengths and successes so far. Each form has been allocated a specific date please see the table below.

Tuesday 12 th December	7LDA	7JLA
Wednesday 13 th December	7AMI	7JFC
Thursday 14 th December	7VCR	7VSI
Friday 15 th December	7RAH	7LNO

Click the link below to let us know if you can attend and what your preferred appointment option would be.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1Vyz-Nh47bl0gKVksP6qwHAJuAVgWiJ_JPfue6h_1hA8/edit

Deadline: Monday 6th November

After this further detail and booking appointments will follow.

Travel to and from school...

A late bus will continue to run at 4:30pm Monday-Thursday to encourage as many students as possible to attend extra-curricular activities after school. Tickets can be purchased from student services and on ParentPay at a cost of £3 per ticket. The bus has drop off points in Hazel Grove, High Lane and Disley.

Walking and cycling to school

It is fantastic to see so many students walking and cycling to school. Please remind your young person to make sure they are thinking about other road users and their own safety on their journey in to school.

Mobile phone and social media safety

With the age at which children get a phone becoming younger and younger, how can you, as a parent, ensure your kids practise mobile phone health and safety?

We understand the benefits of young people having a mobile phone especially as the nights draw in and you can keep an eye on their whereabouts. Here are some useful tips on keeping your young person safe online and with the use of their mobile phone.

1. Set boundaries

It's important to set boundaries and limits with your kids. Talk to them about the boundaries themselves, and your reasons for setting them.

These boundaries could include screen time limits, restrictions on what apps they can use or where they can use their phone.

By setting these limits, you can encourage children to still enjoy activities that stimulate their minds in other ways, such as sports, board games or reading. It also allows you to reclaim family time and ensure your child isn't using age-inappropriate apps.

2. Utilise parental controls & engage with your child's phone usage

Parental controls allow you to see exactly what sites and apps your child is accessing on their smartphone, tablet or computer. It also lets you see how long they are spending on these devices.

While there are many parental control apps to choose from, the standard choice is Google Family Link. Free to use, Google Family Link works with both Apple and Android devices.

While you still may want to use a parental control app to check what your child is doing online, it's always good to engage with them directly as well. By encouraging them to share what they are doing on their phone, you may get a better insight into risks such as cyberbullying or their social network use.

3. Teach your children phone security

By teaching your child a few security measures now, you will help them keep their devices secure in the long run. Examples include:

- **Don't connect to public wi-fi** as that may give hackers access to your child's phone and information.
- **Don't share passwords** with friends or strangers.
- **Don't overshare online** – once a photo or video is out there, it can't be taken back.
- **Keep your phone close** in your bag or on-hand rather than leaving it in public places where it can be stolen.
- **Password protect the phone** so that if it is stolen, personal photos or messages can't be easily accessed.

Social Media Age Restrictions



For further advice and support please see our website.

We hope you all have a lovely half term break and we look forward to seeing you back in school on Monday 30th October on a week 2 timetable.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Annie Kennedy', with a large, stylized loop at the end.

Annie Kennedy

Director of Learning: Year 7 & Transition

ake@phs.cheshire.sch.uk

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alistair Hunter', with a large, stylized loop at the end.

Alistair Hunter

Student Welfare Officer: Year 7 & Transition

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