



Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope this bulletin finds you and your families safe and well. It has been a fantastic first term and the students have been brilliant. It has been a pleasure working with the Year 8 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 after Christmas.

English

This term students have been exploring how and why the novel became the most popular form of literature. In this scheme students will have studied extracts from a range of classic texts such as Robinson Crusoe, Frankenstein and Dracula. Next term we will be moving onto studying crime fiction with a specific look at the stories of Sherlock Holmes.

We encourage all students to read for pleasure in their own time and believe encouraging reading is the most effective way to support your child's English progress

<https://schoolreadinglist.co.uk/category/reading-lists-for-ks3-pupils/>; it's a great resource for discovering new YA fiction. For more reading recommendations also use the Challenge Packs, available on your child's Google Classroom English page.

All Y8 students have been given a reading log to fill in and we encourage them to share this with you as well as their teacher.

Maths

Year 8 have moved from Number topics to Geometry and Statistics this half term. Students have been working in the cartesian plane brushing up on the coordinates and exploring how equations link to graphs. Next, we moved onto representing data in which students learnt about scatter graphs and frequency tables.

Students will have another assessment during the next half-term. It is an excellent opportunity for students to review what we have covered so far this year. One of many revision tools students can use are their knowledge organisers for each topic. These are sheets stuck in their exercise books which provides a concise and informative summary about the topic.

Students should still be getting regular written and online Dr Frost Maths <http://drfrostmaths.com> homework. Remember, to revise, you can click on the Start a Practice button on the home page or on the Course you've been assigned to practice some skills. Check out the instructions in your maths class Google Classroom for how to make the most of Dr Frost. Well done to Sophie N, Megan S, Marcus H, Joe B and Millie P who scored the most points on Dr Frost in November by completing independent revision.

Maths Challenge

Rudolph's nose flashes at 9:00pm and flashes once every 28 minutes. Dasher's nose flashes at 9:00pm and flashes once every 16 minutes. How long will it be before both noses again flash at the same time?



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

Bad Maths Joke - What do you call two friends who love maths? Algebros.

Science

Y8:

This half term students in Year 8 have completed their first science test on the first 3 topics.

Students have now started their second 3 topics of Year 8, which are:

8B2- Gas exchange and respiration

8C2- Reactions of metals

8P4 Electricity.

Students will continue to complete these after Christmas. Each topic has a TMA (teacher marked assessment), providing students with written feedback on how they have performed. They will also be set a GC mini quiz for each topic which self-marks to give both them and staff instant feedback of how they have performed.

Students should have purchased a revision guide at the start of Y7, those that didn't were given another opportunity to buy one at the start of this academic year. If students have still not purchased one from us they can online using this link: <https://www.cgpbooks.co.uk/secondary-books/ks3/science/shs35-new-ks3-science-complete-revision>

The revision guide includes all of the topics we teach in school and is an excellent revision tool and resource to help them consolidate.

Students have also been set assignments on Seneca, an online platform which is an excellent tool to help them revise and consolidate their knowledge and understanding. This is something they can use independently as well as completing the assignments set by their teachers.

Extra reading:

Students could watch these videos on material they are covering in their current science topics:

8B2 Respiration <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nwz4EaO5H2Y>

8C2 Reactions of metals <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TpoFK58BPTk>

8P4 Electricity <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WUR4oAKqWHc>

Religious Studies

Year 8 have done brilliantly with discussions about life and the afterlife this term and have managed to produce a variety of balanced arguments about people's beliefs. Next half term they will be learning about Hinduism and getting a better understanding of how Hindus view life, society and God.

Geography

Our year 8 geographers have now completed their Restless earth topic with a focus on volcanic activity and the impacts of eruptions. This is a topic that we revisit and rebuild on at GCSE so don't forget those plate boundaries and how we structure our balanced longer answers! Next term we move onto Global Superpowers and consider what makes a country a potential superpower and what are the opportunities for the population and the challenges that face groups of people who live there. We look at the physical and human geography of countries such as Brazil, Russia, India and China – learning more about the geography of these countries and their global significance. The BBC Bitesize has regional studies for 3 of the areas (Russia, China and Brazil) here <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zf89cmn> which make for excellent additional reading. The programmes made by the documentary filmmaker Simon Reeve as he travels through Russia as also interesting watching <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/b096sbzx/russia-with-simon-reeve>

History

Year 8 and Year 9 have continued with enthusiasm their history studies. Year 8 have started their second enquiry on Why the English fought the English (The English Civil War) and Year 9 have been completing how WW1 was fought before they begin their new topic on why Hitler was made Chancellor of Germany in January.

Year 8 students will be completing their second assessment of the year in January and this will be on our key question of Why the English fought the English, students will prepare at home but will be completing their assessment in class. In order to help prepare for this BBC bitesize has excellent resources on the English Civil War (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zk4cwmn>) which students could make use of.

MFL

Well done to yr8 students for their work this term! Year 8 have continued to work on topics such as holidays, past and present, talking about things they like on TV and saying what they do on their phones in Spanish. In German, they are now able to describe what they did on holiday and what they like watching at the cinema. After the Christmas break, students in German will continue the topic of media. In Spanish, they will also be talking about food and describe mealtimes.

All Key Stage 3 students have completed their first sets of assessments in Reading, Listening, Translation. There were some brilliant results and many House points were awarded!

Many Year 8 students have taken part in both our European days of Languages Bake off and our Christmas cards competitions. Well done to them, we were very impressed!

We hope you have a lovely and very restful Christmas holidays. See you all in the new year!

Joyeux Noël, Feliz Navidad, Frohe Weihnachten!

Useful websites:

Some 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.

- Mr Farrell- @MonsieurFarrell
- French Department - @PH_french
- German Department - @PHS_GERMAN
- Spanish Department@PHS_Spanish

Food Preparation and Nutrition Textiles

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

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

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

In Textiles we have been designing and developing a pencil case. Students have analysed existing products and have produced their pattern designing using adobe create. These are to be printed onto sublimation paper to be transferred to their pencil cases. After the Christmas break students will be focusing on using the sewing machine to construct their pencil cases.

Product Design

Students this half term have been focussing on the Soapbox Challenge based on the Soapbox Derby. Students have come up with a range of design ideas for their Soapbox and then have worked in teams to come up with their final design. This formed part of students assessment.



Students have been able to go away and come back with a range of modelling materials which they have been using to create their model.

Next term, students will continue to make these and then prepare to race their vehicles.

The next project for Year 8, we will be looking at 'Pewter Casting' and metals theory.

PE

- Over the last couple of weeks students took part in a range of house game activities, this was fantastic to see students working and supporting each other as a form throughout. They also took part in the annual Santa run to support Cheshire East Hospice. There were some great Christmas efforts on show and excellent effort from all involved. Results from the House activities will be shared with forms in the coming weeks.
- Students are now into their second term and have settled in well to PE. They will now have completed 4 different activities and move onto their next two activities in the rotation. Some activities will continue to be outside and it is therefore important that students ensure they have any additional items with them to keep warm if their activity is 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. Activities will stay the same as the last half term and continue to run the same day, please see below for activities. 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

Students have continued to be committed to Dance Clubs and have completed their first Dance in preparation for our annual Dance Showcase on 28th March. After Christmas they will begin to create more pieces for the Showcase and in some cases will be lead by our older students. Students have been excellent throughout.

Computing

Year 8 students have been learning how to code using Small Basic. This unit will be assessed, students will receive feedback and will be expected to act upon this feedback. After Christmas, students will be introduced to Adobe Photoshop to widen their knowledge of working with vector graphics

The Computing Department, runs a Robotics Club on Thursdays after school in rm 29 for Year 7 & 8 students. Students get the opportunity to build their own Scratch games, play with the Lego robots, Microbits and even the Oculus Rifts. Numbers are limited.

Suggestions for further wider learning that students can do over Christmas, include watching the highly recommended films of Hidden Figures and The Imitation Game. Hidden Figures follows the true story of these three women, who all began their journey working at NASA as a part of the West Computers, a segregated group of African American women hired to process aeronautic data in the Space Race.

The Imitation Game – Alan Turing a British mathematician joins the cryptography team to decipher the German enigma code. With the help of his fellow mathematicians, he builds a machine to crack the codes.

Drama

Year 8 and 9 have had a very busy half term in Drama.

Firstly, huge congratulations to all the students who were in any way involved in Grease – either in design, costume, lighting, sound or on the stage. An absolutely wonderful time was had by everyone and our students contributed so much to the life of the school. Most exciting was the backstage world during the show. Everyone helping each other and making new friends across the year groups.

In lessons Year 8 and 9 have been exploring story telling through a range of drama skills. Year 8 through improvisation and physical and vocal techniques and Year 9 through devised and scripted work. Year 9 are starting to look at how to develop a script through some devising techniques and how to write a script adding sound effects and music for atmosphere. They have now moved to looking at a play called DNA and they have the choice of doing their assessment in either Set, Costume or Performance. This will prepare them should they want to do the GCSE as these are the skills that can be used for assessment as well as lighting and sound.

We have access to a range of live theatre and we would urge everyone and their families to enjoy this fantastic free service that was paid for by our amazing PTA.

Here are the two on line services which give us access to the National Theatre collections and the fantastic resource of Digital Theatre Plus . this is a resource that has so much information and is equally as useful for English.

For Drama the more theatre our young people watch the better.

Details are below:

National Theatre Online:

<http://dramaonlinelibrary.com/national-theatre-collectional>

Username: Poyntonstudents

Password: Pa55word

Digital Theatre Plus:

<https://edu.digitaltheatreplus.com/login?redirect=%2F>

Username: user.poyntonhs

Password: morning@7738

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

Equipment Reminder

Students need to bring the following equipment to school with them every day:

- Pens – blue or black
- Red pen
- Pencil
- Ruler
- Protractor
- Pair of compasses
- Calculator
- Rubber
- Reading book
- It would also be handy to have scissors and glue!

Updates from Around School

Student Voice:

At Poynton High School we value our students and want them to have the opportunity to share their views. Each half term Mr Western is meeting with representatives from each form in year 8 and year 9 with a different focus. This half term they discussed independent learning and revision skills. As a Year team we will use this to help us continue to support our young people. We are looking forward to presenting to our young people the actions we have taken following the student voice meetings this term.

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.

Mental Health First Aid and Timid to Tiger Together Courses

Just Drop in are running courses in Poynton during January

**Mental Health First Aid -
Poynton**

For parents and carers
of young people aged 11-18.

**Saturday 20th and 27th January,
9am-5pm,
at Poynton Civic Hall.**

For all enquiries or to book a place, email:
parenting@justdropin.co.uk




**Timid to Tiger Together
Poynton**

Parent and Child Group

For parents & carers of Young People aged 8 - 11 yrs

**Starting on Wed 31st Jan -
4:30pm - 6pm for 8 weeks**
(no sessions during half term)

**Poynton Community Centre
107 Park Lane, Poynton**

Please email: parenting@justdropin.co.uk




Further and Wider Learning:

You will have noticed in this bulletin further and wider learning opportunities from each department area – this is something we really want our students to engage with to further challenge themselves and to consolidate the work they are in doing in the classroom. It would be great to see our students getting involved with some of these activities!

Parent/Carer Update on Class Charts

- Since September 2022, we have used Class Charts to monitor our students in school. Parents and carers have access to Class Charts via the app, and students have recently been given access to their own Class Charts accounts via the student app.
- We are keen to encourage our students to take ownership over the monitoring of their timetabled lessons in school, as well as their house and behaviour points totals.
- The student app allows young people to view their timetable and we would encourage parents and carers to advise their young people to check this before packing their bag each night.
- The Class Charts app for parents and carers allows you to monitor attendance, rewards and behaviour points.
- We are grateful for the support of our parents and carers in discussing any behaviour incidents with their young person and to encourage them to make positive choices for the benefit of their learning.
- We are also grateful for the support of our parents and carers in celebrating the achievements and successes of our students in school; every day, thousands of rewards points are issued to our students for the positive choices they make, inspirational achievements and in celebration of their successes inside and outside the classroom. Your support in ensuring your young person sees the value in this is very much appreciated.

- Further guidance around the use of Class Charts can be found on our website here:
<https://www.phs.cheshire.sch.uk/page/?title=Class+Charts&pid=338>
- For enquires around accessing the parent/carer or student app, please email
info@phs.cheshire.sch.uk

Well done once again to our students on such a fantastic first term. Have a lovely and restful break over Christmas and we wish all of our students and their families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We look forward to welcoming you all back on Monday 8th January.

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

Thank you for your continued support.

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