



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 9 students again over the last seven weeks, and the KS3 Team are really looking forward to celebrating all of their inspiring achievements throughout the year ahead. Inside this bulletin you will find an overview of what is being studied in different subject areas, as well as some ideas about what is ahead after Christmas.

English

Students have spent the second half term studying a scheme of work named 'Big Ideas'; in this we explore critical issues such as gender and race through fiction. The students are working towards two pieces of assessed work: one an English Literature essay about the novel *The Hate U Give* and one an English Language creative short story. Many students have further completed an investigation, evaluating the texts they have studied. Next term, we look forward to 'A Study of War' in which students will encounter a range of genres from poetry and short stories to non-fiction speeches.

We encourage all students to read for pleasure in their own time, and encouraging reading is the most effective way to support your child's English progress. Use <https://schoolreadinglist.co.uk/category/reading-lists-for-ks3-pupils/>; it's a great resource for discovering new YA fiction. Another good resource for current popular YA books this year is <https://www.waterstones.com/blog/the-best-books-of-2022-teenage-and-young-adult>

All Y9 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 9 have moved from Number to Algebra this term. Some sets have been working with simplifying, expanding, factorising and solving. Being able to work with the abstract in algebra will allow them to move on to the more complex maths required for GCSE. Other sets have been looking at constructions and probability. Both topics have many connections to seeing maths in the real world.

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.

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 Sienna E, Joshua R, Alife L, Abigail W and Ava W who scored the most points on Dr Frost in November by completing independent revision.



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

Algebros.

Christmas Maths Challenge

Santa sleigh travels 5×10^5 miles in 10 hours. What is Santa's average speed in miles per hour? What about in km per minute? (5 miles \approx 8 km)
How long will it take Santa to travel 80,000 miles?



Tell your maths teacher the answer after Christmas for house points

Science

This half term students in Year 9 have completed their first science test on the first 3 topics. A letter was sent home to those students who ranked in the top 20% of the cohort based on this first test.

Students have now started their second topics of Year 9, which are:

Biology: Photosynthesis and Adaptations

Chemistry- Atomic structure

Physics- Particle model of Matter

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 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:

Biology: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cBCKedXdFeE>

Chemistry: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fPnwBITSmgU>

Physics: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HLDrvfTNbaE>

Religious Studies

Year 9 have had some amazing discussions this term about ethics, in particular around capital punishment. They also did us proud in welcoming the youth workers from three of the local churches to share ideas about how a Christian makes an ethical decision. Next half term they will be looking at religion and technology and how changes in technology might affect the way we talk about God, faith and what it means to be human.

Geography

This half term our year 9 geographers have been building on their knowledge of development and population by looking at how population structures change and the impacts of both youthful and ageing populations in countries such as Japan. We are now moving on to study our Risky World, learning about risks that face people around the world such as malaria before a more in depth study of the USA and the hazards that face people living in locations such as 'Tornado Alley' and California with its susceptibility to wildfires and earthquakes. Our students learn about the cause and impacts of such events as well as how we can try to mitigate them now and in the future. This is also an exciting time as students make their GCSE choices and we aim to help them make informed decisions with the help and advice of our A level geographers who will visit lessons and answer all questions that our students might have about the GCSE course.. There is so much to enhance our students learning from the documentary filmmaker Simon Reeve who travels south through the Americas <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/m00095p0/the-americas-with-simon-reeve> or the ever brilliant Weather Channel on YouTube who make some of the BEST clips about hazards in the USA such as this one here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0cODBQqaGTw> which shows the impacts of a tornado. What exciting times ahead!

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 9 students will be continuing with the Rise of the Hitler and the Holocaust in the new year, there are plenty of resources available to develop students' knowledge on these topics, BBC bitesize and the Holocaust Educational Trust are a good place to start and offer summaries of the topics and survivors' stories.

MFL

Well done to Year 9 students for their work this term! They have continued to work on topics such as holidays in Spanish, relationships in French, they are now also able to say where they are going to meet their friends. After the Christmas break, students in French will be able to ask a friend out and describe a date in

the past. In Spanish, they will start the topic of healthy lifestyles and start talking about why do languages at MFL. We have been really pleased with the number of students who are attending the second language sessions, considering doing both French and Spanish at GCSE.

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!

We had a very impressive number of students who took part in the GCHQ language competition this half-term. Some of the activities were quite challenging and we hope that some students have found out more about jobs with languages and who knows, maybe a future career as James Bond! We are hoping to offer more of these competitions in the future so look out for messages. Well done to our regional winners!

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.

- **Keep following us on Twitter too:**
 - Mr Farrell- @MonsieurFarrell
 - French Department - @PH_rench
 - German Department - @PHS_GERMAN
 - Spanish Department@PHS_Spanish

Food Preparation and Nutrition and Textiles

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

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

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

In Textiles we have been designing and developing a bucket hat. Students have tie-dyed their fabric. Recently, students will be focusing producing their own pattern to cut out their fabric pieces. Its been fantastic to see that students have brought in old items to upcycle.

Product Design

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

Mini NEA

We have incorporated a mini NEA (Non-Exam Assessment) which, if students are to choose Product Design at GCSE, this is what they would do as 50% of their GCSE. This gives students the opportunity to really understand what Product Design is like at GCSE whilst being in Year 9.

This half term, using their chosen contextual challenge (this is what their individual project will be based on) students have been coming up with initial ideas and then finalising their ideas. Students have been able to work collaboratively like they would in industry.

Next half term, students will be using Sketch Up which is a CAD programme to model their final design as well as beginning to model their design.

Architecture project

Students have been continuing to work on the Architecture project this half term. Students have been finishing their designs and beginning to model their ideas and creating their sustainable living space. Students have been looking into modelling materials and working out which is best suitable for their own model.

Next half term, students will continue to model their Architectural model.

Computing

Year 9 students have been introduced to the new software Adobe Illustrator and Adobe Photoshop, as they have been widening their knowledge on bitmap and vector graphics this half term. They have been discovering how to use the drawing tools to create Logos and Games covers. After Christmas, they will be moving onto Digital Citizenship.

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.

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.

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 everyday:

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

Updates from Around School

Student Voice:

At Poynton High School we value our students and want them to have the opportunity to share their views. Each half term Mr Western is meeting with representatives from each form in year 8 and year 9 with a different focus. This half term they discussed 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/carers 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.

Jodie Hancock

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