



Poynton High School

Year 10 Parent and Carer Bulletin – December 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Year 10 have made a brilliant start to their GCSE subjects in this first term.

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 next half term for our students. It will also include information about strategies suggested by subject tutors to ensure students achieve their maximum potential.

Revision and examination support

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

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

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

Important dates

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

Student voice

At Poynton High School we value our students and want them to have the opportunity to share their views. Each half term Mr Shaw is meeting with representatives from each form in year 10 and year 11 with a different focus. This half term they extra curricular activities and revision skills. As a Year team we will use this to help us continue to support our young people.

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

English

- Year 10 are currently studying Shakespeare's *Macbeth* in Literature. They will be continuing working on the text up until the February half-term. In English Language students are moving on to study Rhetoric in a variety of Non-Fiction texts.
- Please encourage students to read as many books as possible! The more they read, the more they become used to understanding a wide variety of texts. This will assist with their completion of both their English Language and English Literature GCSEs;
- All home learning is being set on a weekly basis on Google Classroom so please encourage students to complete this work. These are explicitly linked to the GCSE papers so students should be completing them and keeping them somewhere safe to use as revision at a later date.
- Encourage students to ask as many questions as possible and get involved with the various activities and learning experiences on offer!
- Look out for revision tips on our Twitter page @PHS_EngDept
- Read and re-read your GCSE English Literature texts.
- Check through lesson notes and ask your teacher to clarify anything you are unsure about. Use the revision tips below to help organise your exercise book!
- **Revision – thinking about your learning:**
- *For each lesson, in your exercise book, write a 12 word summary of the content. What was it you learned in the session?*
- *Prioritise ... For each lesson in your margin list the TOP 3 most important pieces of information from the lesson. Put them in order (1=most important)*

- *Points as pictures sum up each lesson with a quick image (stick people are fine!). Make sure you would be able to explain this to your teacher.*
- *Ask an expert ... Underneath each lesson's work write one question you could ask an expert on the subject.*
- *Get the colours out! Highlight the key ideas or messages from each lesson to make them stand out.*

Maths

Year 10 have now sat their first formal GCSE level assessment and we are pleased with their progress. Their next assessment will take place in January and will continue to assess their recall of the topics they have covered since September, and students will be able to use the results from their previous assessment to understand what areas they need to focus their revision on.

Set moves will take place for a small number of students in the new year, this is to ensure that the pace and depth of the work is best placed to aid their learning. All students in year 10 are following the same scheme of work, which is adapted to suit the tier of paper they will sit at GCSE.

If you have ordered a revision guide for your young person, they should have now received this and can use this to continually revise topics they have covered in class. If you missed the deadline to order a copy and would still like to purchase one, it is still possible to do so via Amazon:

Higher: <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Maths-Higher-Revision-Practice-Collins/dp/0008112525>

Foundation: <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Maths-Foundation-Revision-Practice-Collins/dp/0008112541>

Science

Subject	This half term	Next half term
Biology	<p>Separate Science Students: Have recently started the heart, lungs and communicable disease topic and will learn about how the heart and lungs work together to provide the body with the energy it needs to function. They will have the opportunity to dissect a heart to learn about its structure</p> <p>Combined Science Students: Have been learning about the Digestive System and completing a series of investigations to find out the nutrient content of foods and how the actions of enzymes are affected.</p> <p>All: Have completed their first assessment and reviewed their progress, identifying their own areas for development.</p>	<p>Separate Science Students: Will learn about the structure and function of the different blood vessels, as well as looking at heart disease and its treatments.</p> <p>Combined Science Students: Will continue to learn about digestion including investigating the effect of pH on the rate of enzyme activity. This is one of the Required Practicals. They will then move onto a new topic looking at the heart, lungs and non-communicable diseases.</p> <p>All: Will complete TMA activities in order to develop their extended writing skills using biological detail</p>

	BBC Bitesize Link Required Practical Link	
Chemistry	<p>Separate Science Students: Have completed the first section of the chemical changes topic (C4) which included reactions of metals, acids, alkalis and neutralisation. This topic involved much more practical work than the previous bonding topic and students carried out their first required practical to make a soluble salt.</p> <p>Combined Science Students: Have completed the first section of the chemical changes topic (C4) which included reactions of metals, acids, alkalis and neutralisation. This topic involved much more practical work than the previous bonding topic and students carried out their first required practical to make a soluble salt.</p> <p>BBC Bitesize Link</p>	<p>Separate Science Students: Will continue studying the topic of Quantitative Chemistry (C3). This topic focuses on the calculations needed in chemistry to work out how much of a substance is needed for a reaction to work and how much can be made. Students will need to bring a calculator to each lesson.</p> <p>Combined Science Students: Will start the topic of Quantitative Chemistry (C3). This topic focuses on the calculations needed in chemistry to work out how much of a substance is needed for a reaction to work and how much can be made. Students will need to bring a calculator to each lesson.</p>
Physics	<p>Separate Science Students: Are studying the Electricity topic, building on their KS3 knowledge of circuits. They sat an assessment early in the term which covered work in Atomic Structure and Radioactivity and Forces and have completed follow-up work on 6-mark questions.</p> <p>Combined Science Students: Are studying the Electricity topic, building on their KS3 knowledge of circuits. They sat an assessment early in the term which covered work in Atomic Structure and Radioactivity and Forces and have completed follow-up work on 6-mark questions.</p> <p>BBC Bitesize Link Electricity Required Practical 1 Link</p>	<p>Separate Science Students: will be completing the Electricity topic before starting the separate science only material in the Energy and Particles topics, developing their understanding of these areas and completing TMAs in each topic.</p> <p>Combined Science Students: Will be continuing the Electricity topic and completing a TMA on Mains Electricity before carrying out a required practical on Specific Heat Capacity from the Energy topic.</p> <p>BBC Bitesize Link Specific Heat Capacity Required Practical Link</p>

Celebrations

Most students prepared well for assessment 1 and this was reflected in many making excellent progress from Y9. Those students who performed extremely well on assessment 1 will have received an email home to celebrate their success.

Assessments

The next year 10 assessments will take place towards the end of March. To start to prepare for these students will be starting **Science six**. This will be set on Google Classroom every 2 weeks, and it will help students to revise the large amount of content covered in science whilst students are carrying on with new topics in lessons. There will be 6 questions (2 from each science), these are to be completed in the back of the relevant book and will be checked in lessons. This will start straight after the Christmas holidays.

Revision support

To help support students in their preparation for assessments and to help them recap and consolidate their learning there are a number of resources available, these include:

Seneca

All students have a **Seneca account- please note students will need to use their emails ending @phs.cheshire.sch.uk, and the initial password is seneca2020**. Seneca is a free online resource which can be used for teacher directed revision, independent revision and to help students consolidate work from previous topics and years. The more students complete on Seneca, the better it tailors tasks personalised to each student and the areas they need to focus on. **If students are not sure how to log in or access their Science class assignments please tell them to ask their Science teacher.** <https://senecalearning.com/en-GB/>

Revision Guides

The deadline for ordering revision guides has passed. If you have missed the deadline the revision guides can be bought directly from the links below.

Combined (Double) Science revision guides:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Other useful resources

We highly recommend that your young person watches '**The Secret Genius of Modern Life**' which is available on **iPlayer**. It is a series that explores lots of topics that student study over the course of their GCSE in different applications.

Religious Studies

Students have worked well this half term starting the first topic of the Thematic Studies exam, 'Religion, Crime and Punishment.' They have approached with maturity serious issues of crime, the treatment of criminals, punishments and forgiveness. Students have engaged in discussions about real case studies, offered thoughtful opinions and learnt Buddhist and Christian responses to the ethical issues studied.

In the New Year students will be moving onto a topic learning about 'Christianity in the local and wider community.' This will allow them to discover how Christians support people in need in different communities, through various charities and organisations.

To consolidate their learning, students can make revision cue cards or mind maps to aid their long term revision planning and preparation. 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>

History

Year 10 have worked very hard this term completing the Vietnam unit and practicing their paper 3 exam skills. All students will have had their papers back and will be aware of the grade they achieved. They have begun their new unit on the History of Medicine in Britain and will be continuing with this in the new year. In order to help develop their knowledge of the new unit students should make use of the BBC Bitesize and Seneca Learning pages on the History of Medicine. Thank you to parents who have ordered the GCSE revision guides these will be delivered to school in January.

Geography

Most of our year 10 geographers have now completed one unit of their GCSE – The Challenge of Natural hazards and we are now moving onto a paper 2 topic - Urban Issues and Challenges. They will be studying both the opportunities and challenges facing cities in the rapidly growing economy of India and then much closer to home in the ever-changing city of Manchester, over the last 200 years and much more recently. This topic builds on their understanding from year 9 of the gaps in development but also enables students to see the locations that we are studying if they visit city centre Manchester, especially areas such as Ancoats, the Northern Quarter and Salford Quays. As ever the BBC Bitesize link is a useful extra resource <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z9wgcg82> .

As students develop their revision techniques this provider on YouTube is a brilliant explanation of how to answer GCSE style questions in geography <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7fQJ1S6Ydis>

MFL

Well done to Year 10 students for their work this term, they have made a great start to their GCSE studies!

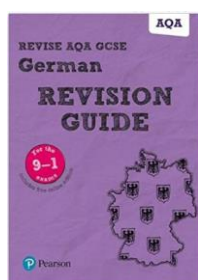
Year 10 German have been working on weekend activities and talking about life when they were younger as well as practising GCSE style questions and skills. They will move onto describing their house and where they live.

Year 10 French studied the topics of shopping for clothes, food and festivals. After the Christmas break they will start the next module about where they live.

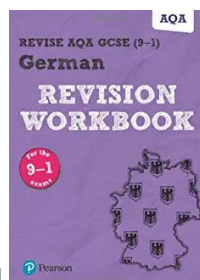
Year 10 students have completed their first set of assessments this term and have completed the Speaking assessments using parts of the GCSE speaking exams. Well done to everyone on their efforts and results!

If you haven't ordered revision guides and workbooks (we recommend you get both as the workbook has exam style questions with answers), you can find links here:

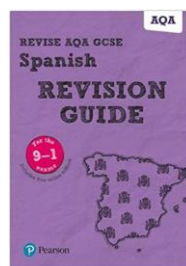
German:



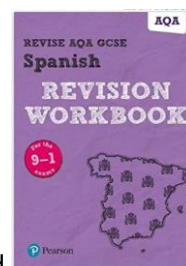
and



Spanish:



and



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:

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 10 classes have come to the end of Unit 1 and have learnt about the skills and characteristics of successful entrepreneurs as well as different types of business ownership. We have started work on the Human Resources looking at recruitment methods in a number of businesses. Home Learning for GCSE Business is set weekly, please ensure your child has a working login for Seneca and has joined their classroom.

A great way to help your child become more aware of the business world is to encourage them to watch the news, shows such as Dragon's Den or The Apprentice, read business related articles or podcasts. For human resources, old episodes of Under Cover both on both 4OD and ITV Player are really useful.

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

Computer Science

Year 10 students have been designing, creating and refining algorithms this half term, as well as being introduced to programming in Python. After Christmas, time spent on programming will increase.

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

Year 10s have been busy working through the Graphics unit and have been planning and researching for the creation of their Loading Screen for Midnight Games. After Christmas, we will finally be using Adobe Illustrator and Photoshop to create a visual identity and loading screen for their game. This unit will be completed by Easter term, when we will move onto a different unit.

As students are no longer allowed to work on their coursework at home, we encourage the students to attend drop in sessions at lunchtime in Room 28. There are also sessions after school Wednesdays in Rm 29 and Thursdays in rm 28.

Suggestions for further wider learning that students can do over Christmas, include watching the highly recommended films of How to Build a Human and Coded Bias. How to Build a Human can be found on Channel 4. The plot centres around the main character exploring Artificial Intelligence and how she uses it to build an AI version of herself.

Coded Bias on Netflix begins by explaining how training AI to make future predictions uses historical data, which can lead to propagation of the human biases contained within that data into the AI's actions. However, clearly this is only part of the problem, it helps to visualise the threat to our freedoms and quality of life that AI and big data surveillance present.

Textiles

Year 10 Textiles have been focusing on fibres and fabrics recently in their theory lessons. They have Year 10 Textiles have been focused on working with Textiles recently in their theory lessons. It is important for students to revise the content of these lessons in their own time. All students have a revision guide and workbook with homework questions set regularly on Google Classroom. Please could you remind students to ensure they bring their exercise book, revision guide and workbook to each theory lesson with Mrs Mottram.

During year 10's practical lessons with Miss Mills students continue to focus on their Textile skills. This is to prepare them for their NEA projects which will begin before the end of Year 10. They have come to the end of their toy cube project where they have learnt a variety of skills including, inputting a zip, embroidery, seams and applique.

Food Preparation and Nutrition

This half term Year 10 Food Preparation and Nutrition students have been focussing on Section B of the specification which is Food Provenance and Food Choice. Students have been learning and understanding about organic foods, free range as well as different religions, international and British Cuisines. Learning these topics has created a range of discussions within the lessons and enables students to share their own experiences.

During students practical lessons, they have completed cottage pie and making the shortcrust pastry and filling for a quiche.

Next half term, we will continue with theory and particularly focussing on exam technique as well as learning about Macronutrients. During practical lessons students will learn how to make puff pastry as well as pasta.

Product Design

This half term students have been doing a mix of theory and practical lessons. This has allowed students to understand the process, materials, tool and equipment that they are using throughout their practical project.

Students have been working on their 'USB Animal Fan' project. This is where students create an animal fan using a range of materials and processes. This half term students have understood how to create wood joints, understanding how to set up the pillar drill as well as Timbers and Metals theory. Next half term we will continue with the USB Animal Fan and begin looking at electronics and learning and understanding how to solder and create their own circuit.

CNAT Sports Studies

Our year 10 cohort have continued their very positive start to the Sport Studies qualification, as they work through the R186 Sport and the media unit. Our students have completed the first assignment and second assignment to a high standard, whilst making sure that they are linking their assignments to their chosen sport of volleyball, table tennis or track cycling.

Going forward, our students will be completing their third and final assignment in this unit by researching the negative aspects of the relationship between sport and the media.

After Christmas, our students will be taking part in practical lessons which focus on Handball and Table Tennis. We continue to offer catch up club for our students every Thursday in room 7 from 3:15pm to 4:15pm. Keep up the excellent work, Year 10!

GCSE PE

The Year 10 GCSE PE students have been working hard on their theory topics. They have finished commercialisation and have been working well through the most recent topic relating to ethics and socio-cultural issues in sport.

They will complete an interleaving test before the Christmas break and move on to Sport Psychology as the next topic in the syllabus.

They are progressing through their practical activities in school and we ask that any video evidence for external activities be uploaded to Google Classroom as soon as possible so that staff can view it and offer feedback for further evidence if required.

Drama

Students have been practising simple storytelling and using basic Brechtian strategies to illuminate and communicate their work- these include, song, roleplay, flashback, narration, 'gestic' performance and some use of props and costume. Next term they will begin their mock exam devised piece (component 1) which will be performed and assessed later in the year.

Students have also been working through their set text '*Find Me*' (component 3) exploring possible ways to interpret the text and understanding more about the context and themes of the play. Students will also undertake a mock performance/design of a piece of **script** in the summer term (component 2)

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.

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 which enhances any drama student's work

Details are below and on Google Classroom:

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

Dance

Year 10 have been very busy learning all the new terminology of the Dance course and they have evidenced their understanding of this through both written sessions and in their own practical work. They have completed their first Performance Assessment and over this half term will complete a Choreography Assessment to prepare for what they will complete next year. All Year 10 students will be involved in our Dance Showcase on 28th March by performing group performances. Well done Year 10.

Music

Many Year 10 and 11 students took part in our fantastic school musical production of 'Grease' this term. Some had lead roles and were truly inspirational, but everyone played their part as if it was a lead role, with confidence, skill and with immense commitment. Backstage, Year 10 and 11 students were brilliant too, helping with props, scenery, sound, lighting, make up, costumes... there was so much to do! The students deserved the sell-out performances and standing ovations – the experience was one they will treasure forever. Also... lots of Year 10 and 11 students have taken part in our School Christmas concerts, performing in the Senior Choir, Concert and jazz bands and some taking on solo and ensemble roles too. Again – truly memorable and inspirational performances, brilliantly supported by parents and other members of our local community.

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' has been refreshed and relaunched in time for this year's World Mental Health Day.

MyMind is a dedicated website for young people across Cheshire and Wirral experiencing mental health difficulties. With support from local young people from our Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), MyMind has now been given a modern makeover!

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

The site includes a host of interactive self-help resources for young people, parents/carers and anyone who works with young people around the topics of Mood, Lifestyle and Relationships, as well as details on local mental health services in your area.

Visit www.MyMind.org.uk

Thank you

Thank you for all of your hard work year 10 and well done on such a brilliant half term. Have a lovely and restful Christmas holiday and we will look forward to welcoming you all back on Monday 8th January 2024.

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

Harriet Dovey (hdovey@phs.cheshire.sch.uk)
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Welfare Leader to Key Stage 4