



Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope this bulletin finds you and your families safe and well. As ever, the Year 8s have thrown themselves in to everything that Poynton High School has to offer, from the engagement and enthusiasm in the classroom, to sporting practices and fixtures as well as house competitions, music practices and extra-curricular clubs. The Year 8s have made real progress already this year and it has been a real pleasure to work with them again. Inside this bulletin you will find updates from different subject areas:

English

Year 8 Students Delve into the Intriguing Realm of Crime. February 2024

Assessments: This term, students will be showcasing their skills and creativity in two assessments:

Recall and Sherlock essay 'How are Holmes and Watson presented in The Man with the Twisted Lip?' 'EATL: creative writing piece set in 19th Century Manchester.

This term, students are venturing on an exhilarating journey into the thrilling realm of crime literature! From the mysterious tales of "The Man with the Twisted Lip" and "The Speckled Band" by Sir Arthur Conan-Doyle to the intriguing narratives of "A Case of Murder," "The Place," and "The Laboratory," our exploration knows no bounds. Delving into the pulse of Northern Life and Crime through Engels' extracts, we'll also unravel the gripping history with 'The Gangs of Manchester: The Story of The Scuttlers' by Andrew Davies (excerpt). And to spice things up, we'll peruse a Guardian article shedding light on the fascinating decline of the Scuttlers. Get ready for an enthralling delve into the captivating world of Crime.

KS3 Reading Log Initiative

We believe that nurturing a love for reading is fundamental to a student's educational journey.

Our Reading Log initiative is proving to be a tremendous success! Year 9 students are putting in fantastic effort, diligently completing their logs and documenting the number of pages they read each day. A special thank you to parents/carers for their invaluable support in encouraging and assisting their children with their reading. Your involvement is contributing greatly to the success of this initiative. Well done, Year 9! Please continue to encourage your child to: Aim to read a book of your choice for a minimum of 15 minutes each day. Ensure that sign your child's Reading Log.

Reading Recommendations



Maths

Year 8 continued with the statistics theme learning about two-way tables and Venn Diagrams. They learnt how to find probabilities from these representations. Then we moved back to algebra learning how to expand and factorise expressions and solve equations or inequalities.

Well done to Maddie D, Joe B, Isabella W, Millie P and Lorelei R who scored the most points on Dr Frost in January by completing independent revision.

Students finished the term with a recent assessment to check their understanding of the topics covered last term. This gives us an opportunity to review their learning and what we need to address. There may be some set movements after this test.

Here are some hints on how to revise maths for future tests. It's not long before your end of year tests.

Prepare

- Get the revision list from Google Classroom
- See where each of the topics are in your maths books
- Which topics do you need to practice most?

Perform

- Cover up the answers on some of your questions and try to do it again.
- Did you get any homework questions wrong – can you try them again?
- Re-do any Dr Frost maths assignments you have done to check you can get 100% now.
- Can you search for a key skill on Dr Frost and practice it until you get it right all the time.
- If you can't do any question, or don't understand something, it's time to speak to your teacher.

Progress

- Did you improve your Dr Frost score on previous homeworks?
- Can you now do a question that you couldn't do in lesson?
- Can you make up a 'difficult' question then answer it?
- Can you answer Dr Frost questions on your exam topic.

If you can.... You're ready for the test

February Maths Challenge

Google the following - Transum Pancake day

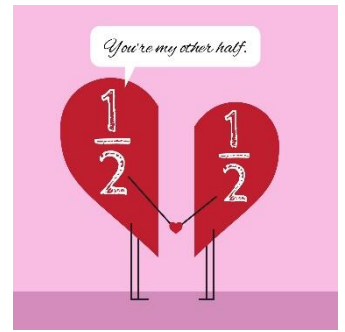
Can you complete all the levels by flipping the pancakes?

Bring in a screenshot of the finished level to get House points from your teachers

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Science

This half term students in Y8 have started their third 3 topics of Y8, these are:

8B4- Plants

8C4- Reactions of acids

8P1- Sound

Students have been set a TMA (teacher marked assessment) on each of these topics, providing them with written feedback on how they have performed. They have also been set a GC form mini quiz for each topic which self-marks to give both them and staff instant feedback of how they have performed.

After Feb half term students will complete the remaining lessons of these topics.

In preparation for their end of year exams in June we will complete 6 revision lessons with each class. We will provide students with different revision materials to help teach them different ways to revise. These will include mind maps/points tests/ Q&A/ Que cards etc. More information will follow on this before May half term.

Students should have purchased a revision guide at the start of Y7. All of these topics are in there and it is an excellent revision tool and resource to help them consolidate. Students will also be 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:

8B4: Plants <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kHVqBZ9FTKQ>

8C4: Reactions of acids <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n-UN3c44ljl> and https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mk_9G11BXKc

8P1 Sound <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t3so3MdVRbU> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x9XOueQRpAA>

Religious Studies

Year 8 have made fantastic progress this half term talking about Hinduism. We have had some great discussion about the variety of gods in Hindu culture and what affect faith can have on their daily lives. This coming half term we will be looking at 'religion, art and culture' and asking what affect religion has on modern day culture, such as music, art and even TV.

Geography

This term our geography students in year 8 have been studying our Global Superpowers unit of work considering what it is that makes a country a superpower and looking in more detail at China and India before showing their understanding in their second assessment based on China– the discussions in class have showed excellent awareness of issues and understanding from our students.

In preparation for this assessment we have looked at tasks to ‘Geog Your Memory’ as well as revision clocks and creating revision cards of key terms where needed. The BBC Bitesize website has useful links to develop their understanding further such as this link <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zydk4xs> it was evident that those students who had completed the tasks here were able to improve their performance in this assessment. Well done!

There is always something exciting to watch and read to enhance your geography knowledge and understanding. We always recommend that our students watch BBC Newsround if they miss it in school but there are also programmes looking at our great world from David Attenborough documentaries to the Russia series from Simon Reeve <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b096sc3z/russia-with-simon-reeve-series-1-episode-1>

History

Year 9 have been investigating Hitler’s Germany and after half term will be looking at the Holocaust, a topic I am sure they will show great empathy towards. To develop their knowledge students may want to conduct further research using the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust or the Holocaust Educational Trust or even the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

MFL

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.
- Usernames 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

Computing

Year 8 students have been introduced to Adobe Photoshop to widen their knowledge of working with vector graphics. After half term, they will be working on understanding Binary. From bits and bytes to binary and denary conversion.

Suggestions for further wider learning that students can do over the half term, include watching films such as The Matrix, The Imitation Game, Hackers Pirates of Silicon Valley and The Social Network. The National Video Game Museum in Sheffield is worth a visit. Visitors can discover, play and create videogames through the different activities that they offer.

Product Design

Students this half term have been focussing on completing the soapbox and racing the vehicles. Students then evaluated their race where they have been able to explain what they have done well and what could be improved for further team challenges.

Students have then moved onto the pewter casting project where they will learn about metals and understand where they come from as well as design and create a key ring out of pewter. Students will be assessed on their metals knowledge.

Next term, students will continue the pewter casting project.



PE

Please follow our Twitter account @PHS_PhysEd for all latest updates in PE.

Students are now in the routine of PE and have experienced a wide range of activities including dance, gymnastics, basketball, fitness, rugby and table tennis. All students will now have completed 6 activities (year 8) and 3 activities (Year 9) in their PE lessons by the start of February ½ term.

Activities continue to be outside and for those lessons, it is important that students ensure they are prepared. As the weather is unpredictable, students should consider additional items to keep warm. Students must wear their PHS PE kit, but can also wear any of the following to adapt to the weather

- Long sleeved t – shirt or under amour underneath their PE t – shirt

- Plain blue Jumper (No hoodies)
- Plain blue or black tracksuit bottoms

Our PE extra-curricular clubs continue to run, and it has been great to see students getting involved in these at lunch and afterschool.

Music

This term Year 8 have been exploring ways to vary and existing musical theme using the elements of music and simple musical devices in terms of changing pitch, timbre and sonority, articulation, tempo, dynamics and rhythm and by adding pedal, drone, ostinato and decoration using passing notes.

The students now have a good understanding of how the elements of music can be used to manipulate a melody to create a sense of development throughout a piece of music.

As usually, the students have enjoyed the “Do It Nows” performing classic rock tracks as soon as they walk into the classroom with some new competitive rhythm games where they have to try and stay in to the end!

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!

Mental Health and Wellbeing

- Throughout the course of this year, our students have had fortnightly 'Wellbeing Wednesdays', where they have completed activities and held discussions in form time promoting positive mental health.
- There are resources available and links to further information around mental health and wellbeing on the Year 8 page on Google Classroom. Here, you can find tips from students around promoting positive mental health in a number of categories, such as sleep, exercise and social media use.

If you have any queries about anything school related, please do not hesitate to get in touch. Well done once again to all of our students on their hard work this year. We hope you all have a restful break and look forward to seeing you back in school on Monday 26th February.

Thank you for your continued support.

Jodie Hancock

Director of Learning for KS3

[ilh@phs.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:jlh@phs.cheshire.sch.uk)

Alison Riley

Welfare Leader for KS3

ari@phs.cheshire.sch.uk