



**Year 9 Parent and Carer Bulletin – February 2024**

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope this bulletin finds you and your families safe and well. This half term has been just five weeks, but packed full of opportunities for our Year 9 students. As ever, the Year 9s 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 9s have made real progress already this year and it has been a real pleasure to work with them. Next half term will be an important one for the Year 9s, with their GCSE options process commencing. Inside this bulletin you will find updates from different subject areas:

**Options**

Date	What's happening:
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>Options talk to Y9 students – period 5</b> <b>Options Evening for parents</b> Y9 Options launch on website
Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>SDD – Y9 focus Option Choices</b>
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> March	Y9 Parents Evening
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>Deadline to submit Form</b>

**English**

Engaging in an Emotive Study of War, Year 9 Explores its Complexities and Impacts...

Year 9 will navigate the diverse attitudes towards war, vividly expressed through poetry, stirring speeches (including those by Churchill), impactful propaganda, and gripping war reports. Furthermore, they will cultivate the ability to discern and employ persuasive features across these emotionally charged mediums. Recently, students completed an assessment recalling some of their knowledge and understanding of key terminology and analysis. Students were given an extract from *The Hate You Give*; this required them to consider the significance of an extract in the story as a whole. Students worked hard on their assessment, particularly in preparation lessons and utilising the revision materials uploaded on Google Classroom. Well done, Year 9!

Assessments:

This term, students will be showcasing their knowledge and understanding in two assessments: ‘Dulce et Decorum Est’ - How does Wilfred Owen present his ideas about war in the poem? ‘The English education system is obsessed with the two World Wars. It’s about time that teachers learned to move on and look to the future.’ Prepare and deliver a speech to your class giving your views on this statement.

**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

#### KS3 Maths – Year 9

Some of year 9 have moved from algebra to shape and space. They are using their number skills in the context of area of parts of circles and volume. Some of our year 9 students have looked at ratio & proportion in a variety of contexts followed by patterns in sequences.

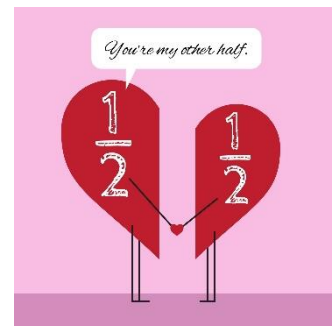
Students have had their first test since the start of term and there may be some set movements after this test. Here are some hints on how to revise maths for future tests. It's not long before your end of year tests.

#### 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.

## Science

This half term students in Y9 have completed their third 3 topics of Y9, these were

**Biology: Ecology**

**Chemistry: Atomic Structure**

**Physics: Particles**

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.

In preparation for their end of year exams students will be set centrally on Seneca assignments to complete for Biology/Chemistry and Physics. More information about this will be given before Easter. Seneca is something they can use independently as well as completing the assignments set by their teachers.

The next topics that they will start after Feb half term are:

**Biology: Human Impact on the Environment**

**Chemistry: The Periodic table**

**Physics: Particles continued**

### **Extra reading:**

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

Biology: Ecology <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KvK7EJimAH8>

Chemistry: Atomic Structure and Periodic Table <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m55kgYApYrY>

Physics: Particles <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sQ4J0jcAUec>

## Religious Studies

Year 9 have done very this half term talking about the affect religion has on modern day technology and vice versa. Next up we will be studying the religion of Buddhism including who the Buddha was and what some of his teachings suggested about the world around us.

## Geography

Spring term saw year 9 continuing their studies of the social and economic impacts of population change in Japan and Nigeria as well as the issues facing people in LICs such as malaria. The second assessed task enabled our students to apply this understanding and develop their skills in data response using population pyramids and graphs as well as images to draw informed answers. The revision resources used in lessons and on their Google Classroom enabled them to perform really well and we were really proud of them. We have now moved on to look at the USA as a multi hazardous location, we are studying the causes and impacts of tornadoes and how to mitigate the increasing incidence of wildfires in the USA– a very topical unit!

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 and as our students are approaching their GCSE Options they can see the opportunities that continuing their geography studies can bring them as we discuss options in class and show clips such as this one

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Mj8MTWZX4M> What can you do with geography?

## 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](http://www.memrise.com), [www.quizlet.com](http://www.quizlet.com) or [www.pearsonactivelearn.com](http://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](http://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\_French
  - German Department - @PHS\_GERMAN
  - Spanish Department@PHS\_Spanish

## Computing

Year 9 students have been looking into Digital citizenship and the responsible use of technology by anyone who uses computers, the Internet, and digital devices to engage with society on any level. In particular, we have been looking

at fake news, online scams and how to use social media responsibly. After half term, the students will be introduced to Adobe Animate in order to create their own animations.

We run a Tuesday lunchtime club in rm 29 that is open to any Year 9 students who are keen to develop their Python knowledge and perhaps use it as their Duke of Edinburgh Skill. Email Mrs Bemowski for further information [db@pchs.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:db@pchs.cheshire.sch.uk)

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

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, students have been creating their models using modelling materials of their final design concept. It has been fantastic to see a range of ideas.

### Architecture project

Students have been working on their architectural model and are beginning to finish off their design concept. Students have created some fantastic design concepts with a real eye for design and sustainability as part of their design idea. This projects enables our students to understand the wider world and incorporate new and emerging technologies as part of their design thinking.

### Passive Amplifier project

Following on from these projects, we will be moving onto the 'Passive Amplifier' where students will design and make a passive amplifier. Students will start learning the timbers theory which they will be assessed on as part of their assessment this term. They will then move into designing their passive amplifier.



## **Music**

This term Year 9 have been exploring two of the many various styles, movements and genres of twentieth century music - minimalism and expressionism. The term focuses on compositional rhythmic tasks in groups, using computer music software, and listening to some as they call it “weird 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!

## **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.

## **Dance**

Year 8 and 9 Dance club members have been working really hard to prepare for our Dance Showcase on the 28th March at 6pm. They have all been involved in choreographing work for the evening and it will be a great celebration of their work alongside the GCSE Dance students performing their practical examination pieces.

It is coming up to options time for Year 9 and if any students are thinking of taking Dance as an option for GCSE it would be good to come and see the GCSE practical work on that evening, if you are not in the Dance Club. There is a presentation on the website which gives you more information about GCSE and there will be options talks in lessons. If this is an option please make a parents evening appointment to discuss further. We look forward to celebrating all the hard work on that evening.

## **Other News from Around School:**

### **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](https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/schools/free_school_meals.aspx)

### Equipment Reminder

- Due to the current circumstances, we are unable to lend equipment to the students this year.
- 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!

### Useful Social Media Information

# Social Media Age Restrictions

The infographic is organized into columns representing different age groups and their associated social media platforms:

- Under 13 (with parental consent):** GoBubble, PopJam, GROM SOCIAL.
- 13+:** Facebook, Instagram, Tumblr, Twitter, Skype, iTunes, Pinterest, MyLOL, Wink, Snapchat, TikTok, reddit, ask.fm.
- 16+:** WhatsApp, Telegram.
- 17+:** (No specific platforms listed in this section).
- 18+:** Meow Chat, Meet Me, Tinder.
- 18 (13 with parental permission):** flickr, YouTube, Spotify.

## Uniform

- Thank you for continuing to support our uniform policy
- Students should not be wearing coats inside the school building.
- A reminder that blazers must be worn to school each day; if a student is wearing a navy jumper, they must also be wearing their blazer.
- We have seen an increase in the number of young people coming to school with false nails. Not only is this a violation of our uniform policy but it does pose a health and safety concern. Under no circumstances should students be arriving to school wearing false nails. Thank you for your support.
- Students are not permitted to wear jewellery in school, as per the uniform policy. If students are wearing jewellery to school they risk having this confiscated. Thank you for your support.
- Students may only wear one set of earrings. Any other piercings, including additional ear piercings and nose piercings are not permitted in school. These pose a health and safety risk. Students should not get any new piercings during term time; they will be asked to remove this in school.

## Form Time Curriculum

- During registration, our students undertake a number of activities to support their learning and welfare in school.
- Form time activities include;
  - The Cultural Passport – these sessions provide students with valuable cultural capital to enhance their learning. This half term has focused on Political Parties and Newspapers. Next half term will look at World Icons like Nelson Mandela
  - Reading
  - News
  - Wellbeing Wednesdays
  - Assembly – the assembly topics focus on important events, such as LGBTQ+ History Month and International Women’s Day, as well as British Values and supporting the students’ learning.

## 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 26<sup>th</sup> February.

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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