



## **Poynton High School**

### **Year 10 Parent and Carer Bulletin – February 2024**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Each half term I will send out a year group bulletin, inside you 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**

Next half term the Year 10 students will be sitting their mock exams. You will receive more information about this after half term. 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**

- Careers and Employability Day: 29/02/24
- 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 discussed school support and challenge within their learning. As a Year team we will use this to help us continue to support our young people.

## English

- Currently studying rhetoric and moving towards fiction skills in Language;
- Currently studying *Macbeth* by William Shakespeare in Literature;
- After Easter they will be concentrating on a whole class read and *Dr Jekyll & Mr Hyde*;
- In March students will complete a Language Paper One mock paper for English Language so will benefit from any revision completed. Resources will be set on Google Classroom to support with this but some of the top tips include:
  - Revision of subject terminology – word types, language techniques and structure vocabulary;
  - Reading of a range of non-fiction texts and summarising their main points;
  - Completing writing of non-fiction texts that cover a range of techniques.
- The English Literature mock will be a *Macbeth* question;
- Centralised home learning tasks continue to be set via Google Classroom. These tasks form a significant part of students' revision as they encourage research and/or retrieval of prior knowledge;
- Ensure all home learning tasks are completed/revisited to aid revision as they will support students in achieving marks for AO3 in Literature and basic technical writing skills for Language.

## Maths

Year 10 are beginning to prepare for their end of year exams in March. This will be their first experience of sitting a real GCSE paper and we can use this to measure their progress towards their target grades. During lessons we will provide opportunities for students to revise topics and prepare for these exams, but students should be completing their own independent revision using the resources available to them. They can use revision guides if you have purchased one, Dr Frost, and the knowledge organisers in their exercise books.

March is Maths Month in the department and alongside celebrating Pi Day and International Maths Day, we will be running competitions for students in year 10 based on their engagement in revision on Dr Frost, so please make sure your young person is able to log into and access Dr Frost to be able to participate. They can speak to their maths teacher if they are having difficulty with this.

If you would still like to order revision guide for your young person, 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	<b>Separate Science Students:</b> Have been learning about the life cycle of the cell and how substances are moved in and out. This included completing a Required Practical on Osmosis.	<b>Separate Science Students:</b> Will finish the Paper 1 content of their course and being a Separate Science only topic on Human Impacts on the environment. They will learn about the balance between providing the

	<p><b>Combined Science Students:</b> Have been learning about how the heart and lungs work together to allow the body to respire and release the energy it requires. They have observed the dissection of a heart and investigated the effect of exercise.</p> <p><b>All:</b> Have completed TMA activities in order to develop their extended writing skills using biological detail</p>	<p>resources humans need and preserving biodiversity.</p> <p><b>Combined Science:</b> Will begin the final topics of the Paper 1 content where they will learn more about cells. They will complete 2 required practical activities.</p> <p><b>All:</b> Will complete a mock examination to see what knowledge and skills they have acquired this year.</p>
<b>Chemistry</b>	<p><b>Separate Science Students:</b> Have been working through 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. They have carried out a titration as a required practical which was a real test of their practical skills. They have started to study the final paper 1 topic of Energy Changes.</p> <p><b>Combined Science Students:</b> Have been working through 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.</p>	<p><b>Separate Science Students:</b> Will complete the topic of Energy Changes (C5). Will sit a mock examination covering the paper 1 content studied so far. They will be issued with a chunked revision booklet to guide them. They will then complete the topic of Energy Changes (C5).</p> <p><b>Combined Science Students:</b> Will study electrolysis to complete the topic of Chemical Changes (C4). They will then revise for and sit a mock examination covering paper 1 content studied so far. They will be issued with a chunked revision booklet to guide them.</p>
<b>Physics</b>	<p><b>Separate Science Students:</b> Have been completing the Electricity topic before starting the separate science only material in the Energy and Particles topics, developing their understanding of these areas and completed TMAs in each topic.</p> <p><b>Combined Science Students:</b> Continued their work on Electric Circuits and now are looking at the world of Mains Electricity.</p>	<p><b>Separate Science Students:</b> Will be delving into the forces topic before revising paper 1 content for their upcoming exam.</p> <p><b>Combined Science Students:</b> Will be completing a required practical on specific heat capacity, which completes their work on Energy which began in Year 9, and will be assessed in Paper 1 in their mocks.</p>

### Assessments

The next year 10 assessments will take place the week beginning 18th March. Students will sit 3 separate 1 hour papers, one for each Science.

### **Chunked revision**

To help support your young person in preparing for the upcoming Science GCSE mock exams, the Science team has coordinated a structured revision programme. All students will be set revision tasks/past paper questions to complete for Biology, Chemistry and Physics. These will be set in designated weekly 'chunks' and will be handed out in lessons before the half-term break. There will be tasks to complete for each science, and then one question/task per science will be set each week leading up to their mock examinations.

Students should revise the designated topics (complete mind-map/flash-cards etc) and then complete the exam questions to apply their knowledge and practice exam

### **Seneca**

Seneca is a free online resource which students can use for independent revision to help them 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/>

### **Useful Revision Websites**

Combined Science: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/z8r997h>

Triple Science: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zpgcbk7> (Biology)

Triple Science: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/z8xtmnb> (Chemistry)

Triple Science: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zsc9rdm> (Physics)

### **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-guide>

**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>

### **Religious Studies**

Over this half term students have been learning about the role of the Church in the local and wider community. This has allowed them to gain insight into the wide variety of voluntary work, charitable organisations and international relief that Christians in the UK support.

Students could consolidate their learning on this topic by looking at the following website:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/znqck2p/revision/7>

After half term students will be moving on to an ethics topic, Religion, Relationships and Families as part of their Thematic Studies component. Students will be learning about issues of gender, sexuality, same sex relationships, divorce and religious views to these. They will look at how UK law responds to same sex relationships alongside secular views on relationships and the family.

Revision guides for the course are available to purchase, please see below a link to access these.

[https://www.amazon.co.uk/AQA-GCSE-Religious-Studies-Christianity/dp/0198422857/ref=sr\\_1\\_12?crid=1V0ULT5VJFLPK&keywords=gcse+rs+revision+guide&qid=1679475725&srefix=gcse+rs+revision+guid%2Caps%2C248&sr=8-12](https://www.amazon.co.uk/AQA-GCSE-Religious-Studies-Christianity/dp/0198422857/ref=sr_1_12?crid=1V0ULT5VJFLPK&keywords=gcse+rs+revision+guide&qid=1679475725&srefix=gcse+rs+revision+guid%2Caps%2C248&sr=8-12)

## **History**

Year 10 have been continuing with the History of Medicine course begun before Christmas and have sat their first assessment, or are about to sit, on the Medieval and Renaissance period of medicine. Parents should be aware that students will have mock examinations in March and for History this will focus on the Medicine course. Half term would be an excellent opportunity to create revision material and make use of the revision resources on BBC Bitesize and Seneca Learning.

## **Geography**

In Year 10 this term our students have been studying the first of the paper 2 human geography topics called 'Urban Issues' they have looked at the growth of our megacities and the issues facing cities in Newly Emerging Economies such as India with a focus on Mumbai. We look at the challenges facing the people there as well as the many opportunities. We then have moved on to studying a city in a Higher Income Country – Manchester! the city has, and still is, changing and again our students consider the opportunities for people as well as the challenges posed by urban growth. We will then look at how Manchester can be more sustainable as its population grows.

Revision of the content is ongoing and it is important that students recognise this and complete all tasks set to them.

As always there is lots of support and interesting clips on Youtube and through the BBC Bitesize pages for geography students. We subscribe to the excellent Internet Geography and their pages on Manchester are excellent for extra information and to help students with home learning

<https://www.internetgeography.net/topics/manchester-case-study/>

## **GCSE Business**

Our Year 10 classes have just finished their work on Human Resources, learning about recruitment, motivation, training and leadership. 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. After the holidays, we will be exploring the world of Marketing, finding out how businesses carry out research, decide upon their target market and use the Marketing Mix to influence customer behaviour.

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 studying programming functions, looking at sequencing, functions and arrays, both in their theory and practical lessons.

With regards to programming at home, students have been recommended to install Python and use the IDLE, in order to improve their programming skills. This will help with the NEA and Paper 2.

## **CNAT iMedia**

Year 10s are well on their way with their Graphics unit. Students are working towards having it completed after Easter, as marks have to be entered early May. This unit is worth 25% of their final mark

We offer drop in sessions for both Year 10 and 11 students at lunchtime in Room 28 and after school sessions on Wednesdays and Thursdays in rm 28, with both iMedia teachers. We strongly recommend that students attend these sessions if they are behind in their coursework assignments, in order for them to achieve the best grade possible.

## **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 learnt about soldering and a range of components for their animal fan.

With students having upcoming mock examinations, we are moving onto exam technique and continuing with the theory element of the course so students have the knowledge and exam technique ready.

Next half term students will begin a new project called 'Earphone wrap'. Students will use their recently learnt polymers knowledge when working with a range of polymers. Students will also learn and understand the importance of a specification as well as perfecting their rendering skills.



Here is an amazing example of the Animal Fan by a Year 10 student

## **CNAT Sports Studies**

Our year 10 students have continued their really positive start to their CNAT Sport Studies Qualification. Students have recently been finishing their final assignment in the media unit, in which they will be aiming to achieve as many marks as possible and complete the best coursework they possibly can.

Students have been working hard in theory lessons to put the final touches to their Task 3 – Negative Aspects of the Relationship between Sport and the Media assignments. In upcoming theory lessons after half term, we will begin our preparations for the leadership sessions in the summer by completing a lesson plan and a risk assessment.

In practical lessons, our students have been working hard to refine their skills in handball and table tennis. After half term, the practical lessons will also be used in preparation for the upcoming leadership sessions.

We offer a CNAT Sport Studies club every Thursday in room 7 from 3:15pm to 4:15pm, which is provided to help students achieve the best possible grade. Keep up the excellent start you have made, Year 10!

## **GCSE PE**

The Year 10 GCSE students have been working hard on the Paper 2 content and have just completed their 4<sup>th</sup> interleaving test. They will complete the final topic area for Paper 2 after half term where after they will have their final interleaving test for Paper 2 where they will experience a full paper. This is giving us a better indication of where they are working at for that content.

They have been working hard in practical lessons and we are starting to gather a better picture of their practical ability/score. At parents evening we spoke about any other practical activity's students may access. If they have external sports they need to produce video evidence which can be handed in to their teacher before the end of Year 10 to allow us to assess it and give feedback. This is especially important for summer activities such as tennis & cricket where there is only a very small window for participation. Video evidence needs to show the student clearly and, in both practice, and competitive situations. The student should be identified at the start of the clip and followed throughout. The evidence is best to be uploaded to a USB and presented to the class teacher. If you have any questions regarding this please speak to your child's class teacher.

The students will be moving on to Paper 1 content around Easter time and will start to complete parts of their NEA written response (AEP). This relates to the students assessing their fitness levels and skill in their chosen sport and creating an action plan on how to improve a selected weakness. More information will be available regarding these during the next half term.

## **Drama**

Students have practically explored the practitioner Bertolt Brecht- specifically his style and technique in performance and performed a short piece of drama which they are able to watch back and evaluate informally.

On Google Classroom they have been set an open ended home-learning task to watch various pieces of drama/ documentaries and key sites to read and research.

Students have now re-grouped to begin a mock of their **Component 1 (Devising Theatre)**. This is due to be complete by 20<sup>th</sup> March when we have provisionally planned to do a brief showing of their work after school. They should keep records of ideas and progress in whatever way they can for their 'creative log' of the process.

Students have continued to explore their Set Text- 'Find Me' through workshopping and discussion and mini tasks. They will now have a wealth of ideas about possible ways to bring the text from 'page to stage' as designers and as performers in preparation for their **Component 3 (Interpreting Theatre)**

They have also been establishing practical ways into learning and using text, using appropriate practitioner techniques in preparation for **Component 2 (Performing from a Text)**

## **Dance**

Year 10 have recently set a choreography assessment where they have risen to the challenge to create a solo based on different stimuli. The written side of the course is mainly taught through practical so it is really important to make the links from practical lessons to written questions. There is a PowerPoint on Google Classroom which I have recommended students complete once a week. This contains all of the specification terminology and if they understand all of this the first section of the written exam becomes much clearer. Year 10 will be performing at our annual Dance Showcase March 28<sup>th</sup> in the hall 6pm

## **Music**

This term Year 10 have been building on their knowledge and understanding of music from unfamiliar musical genres focussing on the AQA keywords which they need to use in the written exam paper next year. We have had tremendous success in recording their solo performances during and after school and are now working on their ensemble performances to be recorded by the end of March. The students have experienced on a theoretical basis the importance of diatonic music - understanding what chords can be used in composition and how to create and extend/develop melody throughout a composition. During listening lessons, we have continued to work on three of their set studies - Little Shop of Horrors. Each week they must be listening to these musical experts over and over again, so they have it recorded in their memory for the listening examination next year.

## **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](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](http://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 half term break and we will look forward to welcoming you all back on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February 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](mailto:hdovey@phs.cheshire.sch.uk))  
Director of Learning to Key Stage 4

Lois Hollingworth ([LHO@phs.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:LHO@phs.cheshire.sch.uk))  
Welfare Leader to Key Stage 4