



Poynton High School Year 11 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 contain information about strategies suggested by subject tutors to ensure students achieve their maximum potential.

Revision and examination support

The first week back after half term students are sitting their mock examinations. These are to help prepare them for their formal examinations in the summer. **We recommend that students should be doing a minimum of 3 hours of revision each day over the half term break, taking rests in between, doing activities they enjoy and having one full day free from revision.** 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>

There is a Year 11 Study drop in session on a Tuesday in room 38 where students can come to do their own revision and homework. Miss Dovey will be there to support them with their revision. This will run 3:25-4:15pm. Also running on a Tuesday in room 33 is a Year 11 Welfare drop in session where students can drop in to speak to Miss Hollingworth if they have any welfare concerns. This will run 3:15-3:45pm.

Important dates

- Mock Exams: 26/02/24 – 01/03/24
- Progress Grades: 23/04/24
- GCSE Exams: 09/05/24 – 26/06/24
- Leavers Day and Prom: 27/06/24

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 working on Paper 1 skills in English Language;
- In English Literature we have covered every topic and have been revising *Dr Jekyll & Mr Hyde* and *Macbeth* to prepare for the mock assessments.
- Over February half-term a revision pack will be printed for pupils that covers a recap of the skills and content for February mock exams. It is imperative students complete as much of these packs as possible to identify the gaps in their knowledge;
- It is important to start revising early, particularly topics such as Creative Reading and Writing, *An Inspector Calls*, Poetry, *Macbeth*, *Dr Jekyll & Mr Hyde* and Non-Fiction reading as they were studied early in the course and may have been forgotten by now;
- Home revision tasks continue to be set via Google Classroom. This is the BEST way to revise for English Language and Literature;
- A range of additional resources will be available on Google Classroom to support students with their revision.
 - For GCSE English Language, we have shared model questions, model answers, structure reminders and language-focused tasks
 - For GCSE English Literature, we have shared key extract tasks for pupils to write responses to.
 - If students have signed up to purchase the Snap Revision Bundle, payment details will be available very soon.

Maths

Students have received the grades and feedback from their December mocks and are working hard to prepare for the next set of mock exams at the end of February. Students will sit two papers in exam conditions, one calculator and one non-calculator. In order to best revise for the upcoming exams, students should use the information from the AQA analysis they filled out in class (accessible via their google classroom) to pin-point which topics they are weakest at, to be able to best focus their revision.

In lessons, we are helping students to prepare by running walking talking mocks once per fortnight which are designed to show students how to best show their working and answer exam-style questions. Students will also be completing a past paper once per fortnight in lesson time, so that they have lots of exposure to the types of questions they could expect to see in May and have chance to practice their exam technique. We ran the first walking talking mock recently and have been really pleased with year 11s focus and effort during this.

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 11 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	<p>Separate Science Students: Have learned about how DNA controls the body and how genetic characteristics are inherited</p> <p>Combined Science Students: Have been learning about the causes of our characteristics and how inherited features are passed on.</p> <p>All: Have analysed their assessment and completed a series of follow up tasks designed to build on key skills</p>	<p>Separate Science Students: Will be learning about the causes and importance of variation in a species and how different theories of evolution try to explain the change in species over time. They will carry out their final Required Practical into Antibiotic Resistance.</p> <p>Combined Science Students: Will be learning about the causes and importance of variation in a species and how Darwin's Theory of Natural Selection explains evolution.</p> <p>All: Will complete a Paper 2 mock exam to assess their knowledge and progress since December.</p>
Chemistry	<p>Separate Science Students: Students have evaluated the recent mock exams to identify targets for improvement and plan how they will achieve these. They have continued to study topic C8 Chemical analysis looking at pure substances, formulations and chemical testing. They have carried out a required practical to identify an unknown substance.</p> <p>Combined Science Students: Students have evaluated the recent mock exams to identify targets for improvement and plan how they will achieve these. They have also completed their studies of organic chemistry (topic C7) looking at products from crude oil and moved on to study Chemical analysis (topic C8) looking at pure substances, formulations and chemical testing. They have also looked at how we purify water to make it suitable for drinking.</p>	<p>Separate Science Students: Will sit and evaluate a Paper 2 mock examination and then move on to learning about the earth's resources in the last topic of Paper 2 content.</p> <p>Combined Science Students: Will sit and evaluate a Paper 2 mock examination and then move on to learning about the earth's resources in the last topic of Paper 2 content.</p>
Physics	<p>Separate Science Students: Students have continued their studies of Waves, before moving onto Electromagnetism.</p>	<p>Separate Science Students: Students will be completing their electromagnetism studies before starting the final topic of space.</p>

	Combined Science Students: Students have continued their studies of Waves, before moving onto the final topic of Electromagnetism.	Combined Science Students: Students will complete the last part of the electromagnetism topic before starting revision for the upcoming exams.
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Assessments

Year 11s have had their grades back from their paper 1 mocks, this has helped to guide us and them with regards to final tier entry (foundation or higher). However, the paper 2 grades are also important in ensuring the correct tier decision is made for students, which is why it is crucial that students fully prepare for these examinations. It also ensures students are fully prepared going forward towards the summer examinations.

Paper 2 Mock Examinations (Starting first week back after half term break) :

These will assess the Paper 2 content of the course. All students will sit 3 separate 1 hour papers (one for each of the Sciences).

Revision for Paper 2 mock (Chunked Revision)

To help support your young person in preparing for the upcoming Science GCSE mock exams at the end of February, the Science team has coordinated a structured revision programme ('chunked revision') to help ensure students are fully prepared. We would really appreciate your support in encouraging your young person to complete these tasks, which have already started. This includes completing the weekly revision tasks/past paper questions for Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Student should revise the topics of the questions each week and then complete the exam questions to apply their knowledge and practice exam technique.

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 majority of students purchased these last year. If your child does not have one and you would like them to have one, below are details of how you can order directly from CGP:

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>

Religious Studies

Immediately after February half term students will be sitting their RS mock examination. In preparation for this, they need to focus on two topics:

Christianity worship and festivals (yellow book)

Religion and Human Rights (purple book)

Students have the relevant revision materials for these so just need to focus on consolidating their learning. This can be done in a variety of ways:

- Mind maps
- Cue cards
- Past exam papers

Once the mocks are over, students will be moving onto study their final topic of the course, Religion and Conflict. In preparation for this topic students could watch the following film clips:

<https://www.truetube.co.uk/resource/remembering-9-11/>

<https://www.truetube.co.uk/resource/7-7/>

History

Year 11 are now half way through their last unit on the Reigns of King Richard and King John and have sat their assessment on King Richard this half term. As you will be aware Year 11 students have another set of mock examinations after half term and students should be revising the History of Medicine unit for this examination. They should be using their exercise books from Year 10, revision guides and should make use of resources on BBC Bitesize and Seneca Learning.

The History Department will be running weekly revision sessions on the American West and they will start after half term. Students will need to sign up on the sheet outside room 73 if they wish to attend these sessions.

Geography

Year 11 have had a very busy half term, working through the content on the Living World and Resource Management. They are all working really hard and we are so proud of them.

As we approach the next set of assessments there is an assignment for all of our GCSE Geography students in their class Google Classroom informing them of the structure of this third assessment that reads as follows.

In the first week back after half term you will be completing assessment 3. This will be an exam of one hour.

There will be 30 minutes of a full Urban Issues and Challenges section worth 33 marks and the other 30 minutes will be a mixture of questions from Hazards, Physical Landscapes in the UK and The Changing Economic World worth 30 marks.

Below are some revision links where you can put all of your preparation done so far to the test. Good Luck!

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zg9frmn/articles/z8s2tcw#zdfmh4j> and
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zg9frmn/articles/zdhmp9q#zvqxs82>

We will then be assigning a Google Quiz each week to be completed by all students and checked by their teachers, as well as links to revision resources and tasks such as revision clocks, revision cards and lists of case studies that students need to learn. The first one starts on Monday 5th February and is Urban Issues. There will be one each week, set on a Monday for the following Monday until all 3 exams are completed.

Next half term is an especially busy one in the geography department for our students as we have our human geography fieldwork to complete in Poynton looking at whether the shared space is an environmental and economic success. We then need to gather in the Hall to write up our findings as well as the write up for the river's fieldwork day from the end of year 10. Towards the end of the half term the 'pre-release' issue content for the GCSE Paper 3 is sent into schools for us to prepare and teach to the students after the Easter break. Busy times indeed!

GCSE Business

Our Year 11 classes are working well on Unit 5, learning about branding, the marketing mix as well as segmentation and market research. Their mock exams will focus on Paper 1, testing content from all of the units taught so far. 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. 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>

Additional links to resources for the Eduqas GCSE can be found here
https://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/business-gcse/?sub_nav_level=digital-resources#tab_resources In particular, students should use the knowledge organisers.

Computer Science

Year 11s have begun recapping topics. Students have been given a past paper to complete over the holidays, which they will go over in class.

Mr Darbyshire has recently given the class a detailed revision booklet that is to be used for homework. It details exactly which topic is to be covered each week, with definitions and past paper questions, in a structured way. Links can be found on Google Classroom to further past papers. 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 11 students are coming to the end of their IDMP unit. This unit of work will be completed by Easter, allowing plenty of time to prepare for the examination unit.

We have recently purchased the CGP Creative iMedia Revision Guide and is available for you to purchase at a reduced price of £3.60 on Evolve. It covers both the Graphics and Examination unit, as well as access to an online edition that includes videos and quizzes. Further revision support can be found on Google Classroom, where there are links to past papers, YouTube videos and Know It All Ninja, which is a paid for subscription to help with the examination unit. Weekly homework is usually set on Know It All Ninja

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

Students have been continuing with their NEA (Non-Exam Assessment) which is 50% of their GCSE alongside the theory element of the course which is also 50% with an exam at the end of Year 11. We have been incorporating 'do now' theory activities into the NEA lessons in preparation for the upcoming mock examinations. Students need to begin to start their revision resources and thinking of the 3 P's which are 'Performance, Preparation and Progress'. It would be fantastic if students could implement this at home, working on past papers/questions. Students have been issued their revision workbooks so they can be working on those at home following the revision plan.

<https://www.phs.cheshire.sch.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=1306&type=pdf>

Next term we will have the mock examinations and students will be continuing with their NEA. Students deadline for the NEA is Thursday 28th March 2024 where everything needs completing including their portfolio and their product. Some students are behind on some sections which we will not revisit in lessons so they will need to complete this in their own time. The NEA is time consuming and so students do need to be adding to this in their own time. There is a catch-up session available to all students on Wednesday's after school. I would highly recommend that students use this opportunity.

CNAT Sports Studies

Our year 11 students have been fantastic thus far! They have continued to work hard in their theory lessons and are now going through the content for the R184 – Contemporary Issues in Sport examination, which they will sit on May 13th.

Our students have gone over the topic 1: issues which affect the participation in sport, as well as Topic 2: The values which can be promoted through sport. This most recent topic has let our students gain a better understanding of the 7 sporting values, as well as the usage of performance enhancing drugs.

Our students will be completing their second interleaving test before half term and we wish them all the best. After half term, our students will continue to work through the content in topic 3: The implications of hosting a major sporting event. Keep up the fantastic work in theory lessons, year 11!

GCSE PE

This term, the Year 11 GCSE PE students have been working hard on their AEP (controlled assessment). This will be marked in school and moderated by the exam board (OCR) and will make up their score along with the 3 practical sports. Students will get a score out of 80 and this will make up 40% of their GCSE PE grade. Please note that this is subject to moderation by the exam board – OCR PE Moderator.

Students will now look at the short- and long-term effects of exercise and injury prevention as the final 2 topics for Paper 1 where they will have their mock exam for Paper 1 in the February mocks when we return after half term. The mock will cover all of Paper 1 content so students must use their Yellow GCSE PE book to prepare and revise for this.

Following the mocks, students will be involved in more theory lessons so that we can consolidate their learning of all topics and content covered in both Paper 1 and Paper 2. We will also work on exam technique and students will have lots of time to practice exam style questions to best prepare them for the exams.

Drama

Students have now all completed **Component 1 (Devising Theatre 40%)**. This has included *designing for / performing* in a devised piece of theatre, meeting the home-learning deadline for *portfolio/creative log* (Feb 9th), and also completing an *evaluation* of their work.

Many of them have risen admirably to this challenge and are rightly proud of the work they have done, in many cases the quality of work has exceeded GCSE standard.

Students are now in the process of rehearsing rigorously for **Component 2 (Performance from a Text 20%)**

This is due to be performed on the evenings of **4th / 6th March** (look for details on Google Classroom)

Lessons following this will focus on exam technique and revising knowledge and ideas for the written exam **Component 3 (Interpreting theatre)**. Students should seek to supplement this classwork with repeated practice exam questions at home.

Dance

Year 11 have been busy preparing for their practical examination Thursday 28th March. There will be an opportunity for all parents to see students practical work on that evening at our Dance Showcase starting at 6pm in the Hall. After Easter there will be no more practical lessons in order to fully prepare for the written examination. Students should continue to do the specification PowerPoint weekly in order to fully know all of the terminology for section A of the paper. Students also need to revise each of the professional works they have studied, blank mind maps are available on request. Students have also recently been given a Revision guide where it takes them through the whole paper with hints and tips, as well as example questions. It would be really beneficial to complete these to be marked.

Music

This term Year 11 have successfully recorded their real solo performance as part of their coursework (NEA). They really have scored some excellent marks and are now working on their ensemble performance ready to be recorded by the end of March. This takes some organisation with each other as they need to book rehearsals with their friends, learn their musical part ready for a rehearsal. If they haven't rehearsed their part, it will make the rehearsal less successful. The students have a copy of the sheet music for their group and part and must rehearse this as much as possible. Composition has been busy too, again working on their coursework. Just like many other subjects, the best way to improve on composition is to work on it several times a week. You must study what musical devices and conventions original artists use and then then improvise and create your own version. The department is open most nights and lunchtimes for students to access the music software on the computers.

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' is a dedicated website for young people across Cheshire and Wirral experiencing mental health difficulties.

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 11 and well done on such a brilliant half term. Have a lovely half term both preparing for your mocks and making sure you have a good rest. We will look forward to welcoming you all back on Monday 26th February 2024.

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

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