



Year 9 Parent and Carer Bulletin – March 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope this bulletin finds you and your families safe and well. This half term has been short, 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. Next half term will be an important one for the Year 9s, with their exams taking place shortly after Easter and the GCSE options process completed. Thank you for your support for the students during this options process. Inside this bulletin you will find updates from different subject areas:

Exams

- The Year 9 exams will take place after the Easter break, from Tuesday 16th - Friday 19th April
- The exam timetable has been posted onto the Year 9 page on Google Classroom, along with some revision guidance, and blank revision resources.
- The students should be prepared for the exams starting; they have had an assembly last week focusing on the exam period, expectations and the revision process. It would be advisable to complete some revision over the Easter break.
- The Year 9 exams will take place in the hall and gym, as per the formal GCSE examinations. This is to give our students the opportunity to sit the exams in the same way they will at GCSE.
- The Year 9 exams will be sat under formal exam conditions and with formal exam processes, such as the seating plans being published online beforehand and displayed outside the hall, mobile phones will be expected to be handed in, bags left at the side of the hall and only see through pencil cases can be used. The official guidance from JCQ has been posted to the Exams section on the Year 9 page on Google Classroom.

English

In Year 9's poignant journey through the study of war, students will immerse themselves in the powerful verses of war poets such as Owen, Pope, and Brooke. They 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.

Are you struggling with your English homework? Don't worry, we're here to help! Join us for our Homework Club in the library every Tuesday during lunchtime. Whether you want to get ahead or need some assistance, we're ready to support you.

Here are some different resources and links for you to continue your English studies at home.

Students can enhance their understanding of literary methods by exploring the following online sites:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zn8tkmn/articles/z697382#zt97jsg>

FURTHER LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES AND SUPPORT FOR KS3 ENGLISH:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/z3kw2hv>

<https://www.educationquizzes.com/ks3/english/>

<https://www.teachitenglish.co.uk/ks3>

<https://www.twinkl.co.uk/resources/keystage3-ks3/keystage3-ks3-english>

<http://www.englishbiz.co.uk/>

<https://www.thenational.academy/teachers/programmes/english-secondary-ks3/units>

Maths

Some of year 9 have continued to work on shape and space focusing on prisms, cylinders and Pythagoras' Theorem before moving onto linear graphs. Being able to plot and interpret graphs is a high-level skill which can help in a lot of real-life situations. Ask students to draw the speed/time graph for their journey to school! Some of year 9 have been reviewing and extending their knowledge on sequences, angle facts and the essential topic fractions, decimals and percentages.

Intermediate Maths Challenge

Well done to all participants who got Gold, Silver and Bronze awards. Our year 9 students were in competition with Year 10 students so to get awards is very impressive.

Maths Revision for end of year exams

The end of year exams are fast approaching and the best way to revise for maths is to DO MATHS. Dr Frost is an online platform on which students can practice skills and get immediate feedback. Class teachers have set specific tasks on Dr Frost to help students revise for their end of year exams. Revision lists are also on google classroom. If a

student is struggling to remember how to use Dr Frost to revise, either speak to their teacher, or check out the assignment from the beginning of the year in their maths Google classroom page for helpful instructions.

Maths March

This month we celebrated maths through a variety of activities. Did you know the 14th March is known as Pi Day. Pi is a special variable used in calculations relating to circles. The digits of pi begin 3.14, hence the date! On this date all year 9 students explored circle and sector problems. All students were invited to compete in a competition reciting as many digits of Pi that they could remember. The winner correctly recalled the first 108 digits!

Year 9 students also had the opportunity to take part in a house competition to form their own pi ku (a haiku with a mathematical spin!). Every year 9 class was set the challenge to achieve as many points on Dr Frost within March. The more questions answered, the more points gained! Winners will be announced after Easter when all results have been compiled.

Easter Maths Challenge

How many different ways can 2 eggs be arranged in an egg box?

Test your theory on this website (there are several levels to try)

https://www.transum.org/Maths/Investigation/Egg_Boxes/Default.asp?Level=1

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

Science

This half term, as part of Science week, the Y9 students have worked as a form to compete against the other forms in the school, as well as the Y5 and Y6 students within the PTA and the Trust. They have completed a multiple choice science quiz, this included general knowledge questions from Biology, Chemistry and Physics topics.

To celebrate Science week students have also had the opportunity to compete in the House Science competition. They had to design a poster on the theme of 'Time'. This could be on anything, but suggestions included:

- How a certain type of technology has changed over time, or even the advancement of time-telling technology itself!
- How you think the world might look in years to come
- Look at nature – lifecycles, lifespans, evolution and hibernation – nature is full of timely topics!

The winning form and House poster winner will be announced shortly.

This term 60 students were invited to attend the Catalyst Science Discovery Centre. The purpose of the trip was to excite and inspire the students, getting them to experience science beyond the classroom and link it to the real world.

Students built hydrogen powered cars using water and electrolysis, they debated the use of petrol vs hydrogen and battery run cars, looking at the pros and cons of each. They dressed up as scientists and looked at why we wash with soaps rather than just water, and looked into the scientific ingredients inside body washes. They then had the opportunity to make their very own body wash, personalising colour and aroma and taking these products home to use.

Students also explored the hands on, interactive galleries. Feedback was extremely positive and the students represented the school beautifully.

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 have been set centrally on Seneca assignments to complete for Biology/Chemistry and Physics. These are for students to complete over Easter in preparation for their end of year exam. This is something they can use independently as well as completing the assignments set by their teachers. A checklist has also been uploaded onto their GC page for Biology/Chemistry and physics showing students which topics they need to revise.

The next topics that they will start after Easter are:

Biology: Human Impact on the Environment

Chemistry: The Chemistry of the Atmosphere and Chemical Bonding.

Physics: Forces

Religious Studies

Year 9 have done a great job looking at the basics of Buddhism, such as karma and the 5 precepts. After half term we will be revising to prepare for the end of year exam and then will be starting the new GCSE! The first topic will be about Christianity, focusing on worship and festivals. Classes have had a revision lesson in preparation for the summer examination after Easter and will have a topic list and revision material on their Google Classroom RS page.

Geography

Year 9 have been learning about the challenges and opportunities facing the people of the USA, we have studied the causes and impacts of tornadoes and how to mitigate wildfires as well as looking at the impact of migration on the USA – a very topical unit!

Next term year 9 will study the topic of Our Living World with a detailed introduction to ecosystems and the challenges that face people living in the grasslands of Mongolia and the Arctic tundra.

Year 9 are also preparing for their end of year assessment based on Population, development, natural hazards and migration and in lessons we will be looking at tasks to 'Geog Your Memory' as well as revision clocks and creating revision cards of key terms where needed. There is information on the student's Google Classroom pages with links to revision topics and advice on how to answer questions in a geographical style.

As our students are considering their GCSE Options it is always worth looking at where geography can take you in terms of potential careers <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/groups/c0rx344r1g5t> This link has lots of ideas but remember, we are such a dynamic and evolving subject that the job you end up doing might not have even been invented yet!

There is always something exciting to watch and read to enhance our student's 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 and Simon Reeve documentaries.

History

Year 9 students have completed the units on the Holocaust this half term and have completed some revision for their end of Key Stage 3 History exam. This exam will take place in April and will cover all of the Year 9 course, which includes, the causes of World War One, how World War One was fought, why Hitler became Chancellor of Germany, the causes of World War Two and the Holocaust. Students should continue with their revision and this could be by creating revision clocks, spider diagrams, flash cards, or by completing quizzes on BBC bitesize. Students should look at their Google Classroom page for more information on the topics to revise.

At the beginning of May all students will begin looking at the Civil Rights Movement in the USA which forms part of the first topic of our GCSE course, and for those students opting for History they will continue with this topic in Year 10.

MFL

Year 9 French have started learning about healthy lifestyles, leisure and free time. This has been a great opportunity to revise sports, hobbies and food. They will continue with this after the holidays. In Spanish, students have been learning about school, which they will finish after Easter.

After the holidays, Year 9 students will be sitting an assessment based on all the topics they have learned about this year. It will be a Reading, Translation and Writing exam with the rest of their half of the year group in the hall or gym. They should practise previous topics using some of the websites below, their exercise books and vocab booklets. Little and often works well for languages, so 15-20 min a few times a week works better than a long revision session. Staff will give them list of topics to concentrate on. A parent's guide to MFL is available on the school website. It contains some handy tips for revision in languages.

We were delighted that the 26 students mainly in Y9 took part in the first half of the Spanish Exchange. They had a brilliant time with their partners and families in Madrid. We are very excited about our return visit in the summer term.

We hope you have a restful holiday filled with chocolate!

Joyeuses Pâques, Frohe Ostern and Felices Pascuas from the MFL team!



A reminder about useful websites:

Some 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_French
- German Department - @PHS_GERMAN
- Spanish Department@PHS_Spanish

Computing

Year 9 students have been spending this half term looking at 2D animation. They have been looking at different types and techniques and using the tools in Wick Editor to create a Robot animation.

Year 8 & 9 students will not be sitting an examination in Computing in the upcoming examination window. There are a lot of useful resources on BBC Bitesize if students wish to extend their knowledge in the subject, in the meantime.

Suggestions for further wider learning that students can do over Easter, 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 'Passive Amplifier'.

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 finishing their models using modelling materials of their final design concept. It has been fantastic to see a range of ideas and design concepts that students have come up with.

Students have really enjoyed this project and like that it has given them a taste of Product Design at GCSE!

Passive Amplifier project

This half term students have completed the timbers theory which linked to their assessment. This has given students the understanding and knowledge of what materials they will be working with when designing and making their own passive amplifier.

This half term students have started to design their passive amplifier and to come up with their own individual design idea.

Next half term students will begin to make their passive amplifier using a range of tools and equipment in the workshop. Depending on the students teacher, those students who have finished the mini NEA project will do a range of design and make tasks looking at smart materials.

Dance

Year 8 and 9 Dance Club have been working really hard to create two pieces to perform at our annual Dance Showcase. Tickets are available on Evolve but you can also pay on the night, £5. After Easter students will then begin to create their own pieces for our House Dance Competition in July, students can work with anyone, it can be a solo or a group and it can be any style.

Music

This term our Year 9 students have been developing their understanding of the key musical features of Rock n' Roll, developing the 12 bar blues further since visiting it in Year 8, learning about extension chords such as seventh chords and different patterns of bass, specifically the "walking bass line". Students have improved their listening skills identifying many Rock n' Roll techniques from excerpts such as "Rock Around The Clock", "Earth Angel" and "Little Bitty Pretty One".

Our Junior Choir has had a fantastic term, performing at Congleton Town hall in the Cheshire East Secondary School Choirs' Music Showcase event on 20th March. In addition, the Junior Choir leaders have also performed in a community event. They joined with SingZest adult choir, which is based in Poynton at Poynton Methodist Church, and performed a number of songs with them and to them with an audience of family and friends. Both performances were a huge success and very well received.

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

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!


Uniform

- Thank you for continuing to support our uniform policy
- After Easter, students should not be wearing coats inside the school building. Most days there will be no need for a coat to be worn.
- 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.
- For the last fortnight, Year 9 have had a collapsed form time activity schedule, allowing them to focus on the ‘Preparation’ stage of revision, completing a range of revision activities in registration.
- Last week’s assembly gave the Year 9 students the opportunity to see the Hall set up for examinations and to get a feel for what this will be like for them. The assembly outlined expectations, guidance and talked through revision. This has been uploaded to the Google Classroom Year page.



Year 9 Examinations



The effort you put in is directly linked to the progress you make

Key Information

- Week Commencing 15th April
- There will be two exams per day - 09:05-10:05 (plus extra time), then 11:30-12:30 (plus extra time).
- All exams will be 1 hour, with the exception of Science (1hr 30) to enable all 3 subjects in 1 slot.
- Students will be in lessons as normal for Period 2, 4 and 5, and have Break and Lunch at the normal time, though students should be reminded to arrive at their exam 10 minutes before it starts.
- You will go straight to the exam - Hall or gym in the morning not registration

Inspire
Achieve
Celebrate

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 Tuesday 16th April.

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Exam Expectations

- Our expectations of you during the Year 9 exams will be the same as for the GCSE exams
- You will have a seating plan for the exam room and must sit in your allocated seat
- Your phone must be switched off and in your bag, your pockets must be empty and you cannot wear a watch
- You must be silent as soon as you enter the exam hall
- Your pencil case must be clear and any water bottles must be clear with no labels
- You must follow all instructions from the invigilators
- You must adhere to the guidelines

Thank you for your continued support.

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