



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 8 students. As ever, the Year 8s have thrown themselves in to everything that Poynton High School has to offer, from the engagement and enthusiasm in the classroom, to sporting practices and fixtures as well as house competitions, music practices and extra-curricular clubs. The Year 8s have made real progress already this year and it has been a real pleasure to work with them.

English

Year 8 Students Delve into the Intriguing Realm of Crime. This term, students are venturing on an exhilarating journey into the thrilling realm of crime literature! From the mysterious tales of "The Man with the Twisted Lip" and "The Speckled Band" by Sir Arthur Conan-Doyle to the intriguing narratives of "A Case of Murder," "The Place," and "The Laboratory," our exploration knows no bounds. Delving into the pulse of Northern Life and Crime through Engels' extracts, we'll also unravel the gripping history with 'The Gangs of Manchester: The Story of The Scuttlers' by Andrew Davies (excerpt). And to spice things up, we'll peruse a Guardian article shedding light on the fascinating decline of the Scuttlers. Get ready for an enthralling delve into the captivating world of crime! This half-term, Year 8 students completed an assessment, which required them to recall their knowledge and understanding of the Gothic genre. Students worked hard on their assessment, particularly with their revision of narrative perspectives and analysing literary methods in a given extract.

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>

March 2024 Assessments:

This term, students will be showcasing their skills and creativity in two assessments: Recall and Sherlock essay 'How are Holmes and Watson presented in The Man with the Twisted Lip?' 'EATL: creative writing piece set in 19th Century Manchester.

Maths

Year 8 have covered a wide variety of topics this half-term. Students have generated trickier algebraic sequences and explored calculations involving indices. Students then reviewed and extended their knowledge on calculating with percentages before finally moving onto a new topic called standard form.

Year 8 will have an open book test after Easter for additional practice on topics they have learnt this year. Revision lists will be on google classroom. Encourage your student to check their book is in a good condition and their contents page is completed so they can effectively utilise this in their test.



Junior Maths Challenge

At the end of April, the Junior Maths Challenge will take place. This is a national competition where students compete for Gold, Silver and Bronze awards with other schools. It is open to year 7 and 8 students. If you want to see the sort of questions that are asked, or want to practice, you can use this website: https://challenges.ukmt.org.uk/index.php?action=anon_join&grp_id=3

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 8 students explored the area and perimeter of circles. 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 8 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 8 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.

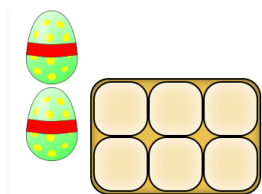
Looking at maths beyond the classroom

Mathematician, Hannah Fry, has created a series on how maths and science is used in all our modern technology. The series is called “The Secret Genius of Modern Life”. See how your exercise tracker, trainers, Siri or bank card has been developed and how maths is used in all of these technologies:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m001f1td/the-secret-genius-of-modern-life-series-1-1-bank-card>

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 Y8 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 half term students in Y8 continued with their third 3 topics of Y8, these are:

8B4- Plants

8C4- Reactions of acids

8P1- Sound

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

After Easter students will complete the remaining lessons of these topics then they will start their final 3 topics of the year. These are:

8B3- The Body

8C3 Rocks

8P2 Light

These topics will take them to the end of the academic year.

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

Students should have purchased a revision guide at the start of Y7. All of these topics are in there and it is an excellent revision tool and resource to help them consolidate. Students will also be set assignments on Seneca, an online platform which is an excellent tool to help them revise and consolidate their knowledge and understanding. This is something they can use independently as well as completing the assignments set by their teachers.

Additional reading:

8B4- Plants <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rVGxuM3UJFk> and https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Do_9b0vcpJc

8C4- Reactions of acids <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n-UN3c44Ijl> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jvBRpBsbsUw> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5ynCfIOY-LI>

8P1- Sound <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t3so3MdVRbU> and https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5_aSR7pH40U

Religious Studies

Year 8 has done a great job of looking at how religion is an important part of art and culture and has an effect on our daily lives. Next half term we will be looking at Muslim life and some of the key features of Islam such as prayer and pilgrimage.

Geography

This term our year 8 geography students have been studying the Global Superpowers unit of work, considering what it is that makes a country a superpower and looking in more detail at Brazil, Russia, India and China— the discussions in class have showed excellent progress and understanding from our students.

Next term we will start the 'Our Fragile Planet' unit where the causes and impacts of climate change both in the UK and globally will be studied. We will look at sea level rise in the Pacific Ocean affecting the Solomon Islands and how we can reduce carbon in our atmosphere by restoring our peat moorlands.

Year 8 are working towards their end of year assessments and in preparation for that we will be looking at tasks to 'Geog Your Memory' as well as revision clocks and creating revision cards of key terms where needed. These strategies will be used and developed with year 8 as they prepare for their exams next term.

There is always something exciting to watch and read to enhance your geography knowledge and understanding. We always recommend that our students watch BBC Newsround if they miss it in school but there are also programmes looking at our great world. We also recommend that students save the BBC Bitesize links and use them in their revision making <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zf89cmn> This one on Russia is useful as <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zydk4xs> China and Brazil here <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zvjdkty>

History

Year 8 students have completed the studying of whether the British Empire was a force for good this half term and will be completing an end of unit test on the topic to demonstrate their understanding of events. After Easter students will move onto looking at how people achieved the right to vote by looking at the impact of the Peterloo Massacre, the Chartists, the Suffragettes and Suffragists. For extra understanding students could visit the People's History Museum in Manchester which provides a great insight into our new topic.

MFL

In German and Spanish, Year 8 students have been learning about food and healthy living which has also provided them with lots of cultural references. After the Easter holidays, the German course will move onto travel and trips, and in Spanish, students will learn how to arrange to go out with friends and how to make excuses.

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

Keep following us on Twitter too:

- Mr Farrell- @MonsieurFarrell
- French Department - @PH_rench
- German Department - @PHS_GERMAN
- Spanish Department@PHS_Spanish



Product Design

Depending on your young persons teacher depends on what stage they are at with the year 8 projects.

Soapbox Challenge

Students this half term have been focussing on designing their soapbox and working collaboratively with their group. Students have given themselves roles within the group whether that be a designer, manufacturer (working out the materials) or working out the logistics of their design.

Next half term, students will complete their soapbox design and then model their vehicle.

Pewter casting

Students this half term have completed their metals theory and assessment. They have then moved onto designing their keyring and beginning to trace their idea onto MDF ready to cut. Next half term, students will finish cutting their MDF and begin creating their keyring through pouring the pewter into their cast.

PE

- Students are now into their Fourth term and have settled in well to PE. They will now have completed 8 different activities and move onto their next two activities in the rotation. Some activities will continue to be outside and it is therefore important that students ensure they have any additional items suitable for the weather conditions. Students can wear any of the following in addition to PHS PE kit to ensure they stay warm during outdoor lessons.
 - Long sleeved t – shirt or under armour underneath their PE t – shirt
 - Plain blue Jumper (No hoodies)
 - Plain blue or black tracksuit bottoms
- It has been fantastic to see so many students getting involved in the PE extracurricular activities at both lunch and afterschool. Activities will change to the summer activities after half term and these will be displayed in the PE department. Any student is welcome to join and they don't have to have been before. After school clubs require students to get changed and lunch time clubs' students can just turn up and play.

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.

Computing

Year 8 students have recently finished widening their knowledge of working with vector graphics and have now begun working on understanding Binary. From bits and bytes to binary and denary conversion.

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.

Music

This term our Year 8 have been developing their understanding of the key musical features of Jazz and Blues, exploring chords, chord patterns and how improvisation is used within Jazz and Blues genres. Instruments, timbres, and sonorities used in Jazz and Blues have been explored and the different roles between Frontline and Rhythm Section instruments within Jazz and Swing/Big Bands.

The characteristic 12-Bar Blues chord pattern is fundamental to this scheme of work, with pupils learning chords I, IV and V as triads in C Major before pupils extend these into seventh chords triads and turn these into a Walking Bass Line. Students have enjoyed improvising with “The Blues Scale” in front of their friends which opened a new world to many aspiring musicians.

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.

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.

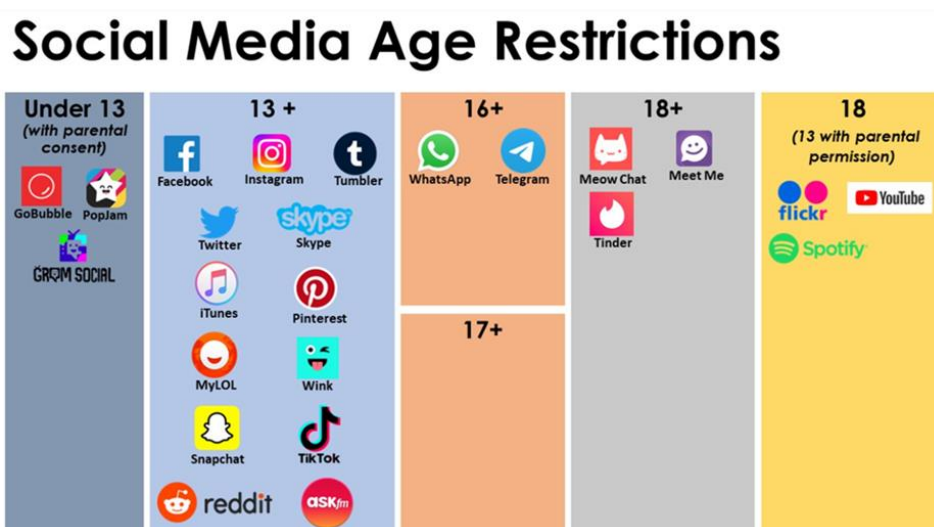
Phone 0300 123 5012 for further information and help or you can apply online at

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!

Useful Social Media Information



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 Tuesday 16th April.

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Thank you for your continued support.

Jodie Hancock

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