



**Poynton High School**  
**Year 10 Parent and Carer Bulletin – March 2024**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Year 10 have worked really hard this half term, especially during their mock exams where they have shown great effort and attitude.

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

As a school we are committed to ensuring that you feel that you are well equipped in supporting your young person through their GCSEs. We have been working with students about effective revision looking at 'Preparation, Performance, Progress'. It is essential that Year 10 students continue to complete regular revision to consolidate their knowledge and practice knowledge retrieval. 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**

- 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 the school charter. As a Year team we will use this to help us continue to support our young people.

## Maths

Year 10 have worked hard to prepare for and have just sat their end of year exams and this has been their first experience of sitting real GCSE papers. In year 11 they will sit 3 papers, one non-calculator two calculator. These exams have given them the experience of sitting two papers in exam conditions, simulating how it will feel to sit their exams at the end of next year. Grades will be returned to students after the Easter break and we can use these to get the best measure of their progress towards their target grades.

This month in the maths department we have been celebrating maths month, which has included celebrating Pi Day, all month we have been running competitions for students in year 10 based on their engagement in revision on Dr Frost, with prizes for the top participators to be announced very soon!

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
<b>Biology</b>	<p><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.</p> <p><b>Combined Science Students:</b> Have been learning about different heart and circulatory conditions and how these are treated, as well as looking at the structure and function of blood vessels</p>	<p><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 resources humans need and preserving biodiversity.</p> <p><b>Combined Science:</b> Will continue looking at the importance of respiration, and then move onto the final topic of the Paper 1 content where they will learn more about cells. They will complete 2 required practical activities.</p>
<b>Chemistry</b>	<p><b>Separate Science Students:</b> Have completed the topic of Quantitative Chemistry (C3). They have then revised and prepared for an exam using chunked revision to consolidate learning and practice exam technique.</p>	<p><b>Separate Science Students:</b> Will reflect on performance in the recent mock exam, complete follow up tasks and identify their next steps. Will study the final paper 1 topic on Energy changes and will evaluate whether hydrogen fuel cells offer a potential alternative to rechargeable cells and batteries in the motor industry.</p>

	<b>Combined Science Students:</b> Have completed the topic of Quantitative Chemistry (C3). They have then revised and prepared for an exam using chunked revision to consolidate learning and practice exam technique.	<b>Combined Science Students:</b> Will reflect on performance in the recent mock exam, complete follow up tasks and identify their next steps. Will study the final paper 1 topic on Energy changes.
Physics	<b>Separate Science Students:</b> Have been delving into the forces topic before revising paper 1 content for their exam.  <b>Combined Science Students:</b> Continued to learn about specific heat capacity before starting their paper 1 revision for the exam.	<b>Separate Science Students:</b> Will be SMART marking their test before returning to the large topic of Forces.  <b>Combined Science Students:</b> Will be SMART marking their test before returning to the large topic of Forces.

### Assessments

The Year 10 assessments took place the week beginning 18th March. Students will have sat 3 separate 1 hour papers, one for each Science and they will receive feedback on how they performed in their lessons.

### 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)

### Other useful resources

We highly recommend that your young person watches 'The Secret Genius of Modern Life' which is available on iPlayer. It is a series that explores lots of topics that student study over the course of their GCSE in different applications.

### 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>

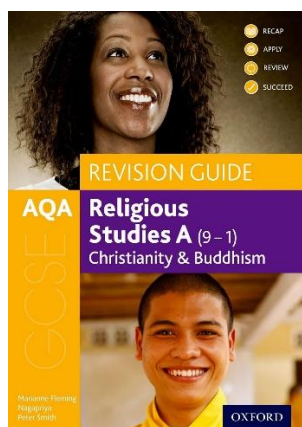
<https://www.cgpbooks.co.uk/secondary-books/gcse/science/physics/par48-new-gcse-physics-aqa-revision-guide-higher-i>

## **Religious Studies**

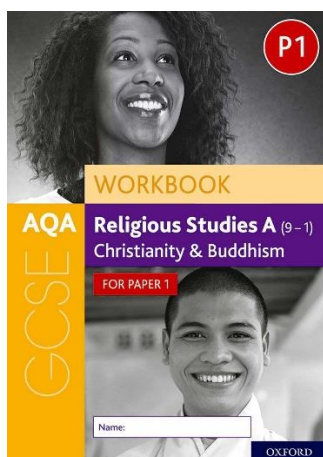
As students come to the end of this Spring Term they are continuing their studies of Religion, Relationships and Families. This ethical topic includes a study of attitudes towards human sexuality, contraception, marriage and divorce.

The summer term will bring a focus on how students' performed in their recent mock examination, allowing students the opportunity to measure their progress at this point in the course. To further aid future revision, the following revision materials can be purchased:

[https://www.amazon.co.uk/AQA-GCSE-Religious-Studies-Christianity/dp/0198422857/ref=sr\\_1\\_12?crd=3V4R6ANMHZIXD&dib=eyJ2ljojMSJ9.8darSXokkIEZhu z9biLkE\\_sDE\\_3mp5s0BaYceQp2lr\\_xh5Cg\\_pFSVxEJMElsklcP76LhZPoinaYJtEMDofg9a85p81nhcH4lgVo zi2mjYwZm2LIWjAKckJHoOvLe9uXK2QT\\_fIZOfjf9qPDN1VQSDIPNHjptFfmmf9nohDIzoogsys\\_AEIP2YSL K\\_ItY9tgFTAPEDSxFKyBFWqQUVD1W9V01R8pRlvZN0KyobNCRxfM.jVY-n9GVojwAMkbjLiNlv3KKZ5lg8ZR3MgMQZUF7SGY&dib\\_tag=se&keywords=gcse+rs&qid=1710609484&sprefix=gcse+rs+%2Caps%2C114&sr=8-12](https://www.amazon.co.uk/AQA-GCSE-Religious-Studies-Christianity/dp/0198422857/ref=sr_1_12?crd=3V4R6ANMHZIXD&dib=eyJ2ljojMSJ9.8darSXokkIEZhu z9biLkE_sDE_3mp5s0BaYceQp2lr_xh5Cg_pFSVxEJMElsklcP76LhZPoinaYJtEMDofg9a85p81nhcH4lgVo zi2mjYwZm2LIWjAKckJHoOvLe9uXK2QT_fIZOfjf9qPDN1VQSDIPNHjptFfmmf9nohDIzoogsys_AEIP2YSL K_ItY9tgFTAPEDSxFKyBFWqQUVD1W9V01R8pRlvZN0KyobNCRxfM.jVY-n9GVojwAMkbjLiNlv3KKZ5lg8ZR3MgMQZUF7SGY&dib_tag=se&keywords=gcse+rs&qid=1710609484&sprefix=gcse+rs+%2Caps%2C114&sr=8-12)



[https://www.amazon.co.uk/AQA-GCSE-Religious-Studies-Workbook/dp/0198445644/ref=pd\\_bxgy\\_img\\_d\\_sccl\\_1/261-8357350-2449912?pd\\_rd\\_w=3qkNM&content-id=amzn1.sym.69d5fdce-57f7-4499-8343-a6ae989376d3&pf\\_rd\\_p=69d5fdce-57f7-4499-8343-a6ae989376d3&pf\\_rd\\_r=M3R215ZSQPK0QQP590R5&pd\\_rd\\_wg=VBdWi&pd\\_rd\\_r=86e47297-19eb-4377-b66b-2364ab386b2d&pd\\_rd\\_i=0198445644&psc=1](https://www.amazon.co.uk/AQA-GCSE-Religious-Studies-Workbook/dp/0198445644/ref=pd_bxgy_img_d_sccl_1/261-8357350-2449912?pd_rd_w=3qkNM&content-id=amzn1.sym.69d5fdce-57f7-4499-8343-a6ae989376d3&pf_rd_p=69d5fdce-57f7-4499-8343-a6ae989376d3&pf_rd_r=M3R215ZSQPK0QQP590R5&pd_rd_wg=VBdWi&pd_rd_r=86e47297-19eb-4377-b66b-2364ab386b2d&pd_rd_i=0198445644&psc=1)



These will be useful for students to refer to over the summer term to consolidate their learning of the Year 10 course.

### **History**

Students have completed their Year 10 exams and should be receiving feedback on their exam after the Easter break. We would ask students to keep safe all revision material created for the Year 10 exam as this can be reused in Year 11 for the mock exams. After Easter all Year 10 students will be focusing on medicine in the Modern World and injuries and treatment in WW1, this is the final part of the Medicine Paper. Although all students were taught about World War One in Year 9 it would be useful for students to refresh their knowledge of the conflict by visiting the BBC Bitesize pages online or even visiting the Imperial War Museum at Salford Quays.

### **Geography**

In Year 10 this term our students have been completing their Urban Issues topic looking at the opportunities of living in Manchester but also the challenges that the rapid growth of the city has brought. We have studied New Islington / Ancoats as an area of regeneration and evaluated its success. We then studied how Manchester is aiming to be much more sustainable as the population grows. The year 10 assessment was based on both this topic and the Natural Hazards topic from the start of the GCSE course. We have carried out revision in form of dual coding – where we use images and text to summarise case studies as well as reminding students on the techniques required to answer geography exam questions. We have really enjoyed teaching this topic and the students have also seemed to enjoy it too!

Next term our year 10 will be completing the river study fieldwork where they examine how a river changes as it moves downstream in terms of velocity, depth and the angularity of its bedload. This day is essential as it forms a significant part of the paper 3 examination at GCSE. More information to follow!

All students were offered the opportunity to purchase revision guides and flash cards through school earlier this year and we highly recommend that students refer to these as we move through the course. There are lots of other sources of information out there including the YouTube channel 'Geography Case Studies' [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cDuzZHfs8\\_g&t=656s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cDuzZHfs8_g&t=656s) This site uses diagrams and discusses topics so that students can create their own set of notes. This one in River Processes may well be used as home learning piece of work next term!

## **GCSE Business**

Our Year 10 students have finished their work on Human Resources and have made excellent progress improving their exam technique in preparation for their mock exams. Their teachers are looking forward to seeing how they have done in their examinations. We have started working on the Marketing unit and will be continuing with this after the Easter break and we recommend watching episodes of Dragon's Den on iPlayer to get used to the new key terms they will be learning.

In July, Year 10 Business students will have the opportunity to attend a rewards trip to Chester Zoo, further details around this trip and the eligibility criteria will be shared with students after the holiday.

## **Computer Science**

Year 10 Computer Science students have recently been studying Systems Architecture. Topics have included, architecture of the CPU, factors affecting CPU performance, memory (primary storage) and storage (secondary storage), as well as preparing for the mock examination.

The Computer Science revision guide is still available for purchase from your Computing teacher at a reduced price. We have had a good uptake so far but still have a few left in school.

## **CNAT iMedia**

The Year 10 students have been busy completing their mandatory R094 Graphics unit. They are using their Photoshop knowledge to create a Loading Screen for Midnight Games. This unit will need to be completed by end of April in order for it to be sent off to the exam board.

As students are no longer allowed to work on their coursework at home, we encourage both Year 10 and Year 11 students to attend drop in sessions at lunchtime in Room 28, if they are behind. There are also sessions after school Wednesdays in Rm 29 and Thursdays in rm 28. 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**

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 finished working on their 'USB Animal Fan' project and they have had some fantastic outcomes. This was a fantastic project with some amazing outcomes by our students.

Students have moved on to the 'earphone wrap' project. This project gives students the opportunity to work with a range of polymers, use CAD and the laser cutter as well as the vacuum former! This term we have had a focus on theory and exam technique focus with students having their examinations. This has enabled students to understand how to answer questions successfully which will then help students to reflect on their technique and which we will work on next term. Next half term students will continue with the earphone wrap project as well as learning a range of theory topics and reflecting on their exam technique.

### **CNAT Sports Studies**

All students have been working hard in lessons to complete the Media unit and this is now with class teachers who will be marking and then this will be moderated.

Students are currently working on the Leadership unit and dates will be communicated home when students will be leading the sports session they have planned after Easter.

There is a catch-up club on Tuesday's after school in Room 7 that students can make use of to ensure they stay on top of completing their work.

If students are taking part in sports and competition outside of school, please send any video evidence in to your young persons class teacher.

### **GCSE PE**

Students have been working hard in theory lessons and have now covered all the content for Paper 2. This is what their mock exam was on and they will go through the exam and receive feedback on this after Easter.

Following Easter, students will begin Paper 1 and the theory content for this. This will begin with the Skeletal System.

In Practical lessons, students have been doing table tennis and improving their skills and tactics in this. All students have been given a score for table tennis.

After Easter, practical lessons will focus on summer sports (Cricket, tennis and athletics). If you young person takes part in any of these, it is vitally important that they get video evidence from competition in these sports. Please speak to your PE teacher for any further guidance if you need this.

### **Drama**

Students are in groups ***Component 1 (Devising Theatre)***.

The date has been extended for the performance of the Mock exams until after Easter.

On Google Classroom they have been set multiple open ended home-learning tasks – some are more specific but the key tasks are:

- To watch and read various pieces of drama/documentaries/websites as listed and recommended

- To organise online and I person with their group to rehearse and plan their devised pieces
- To undertake the mapping of their work via the portfolios or 'creative logs'. Stage one deadline has passed so please ensure all students have met this deadline and work has been uploaded

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)** and they will complete a mock exam in this component next term.

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)**.

Students have then undertaken a written mock exam to test expression of these ideas in timed conditions.

## **Dance**

Year 10 have now completed mocks in their performance piece and choreography preparing for next year alongside a written mock. They are performing in our Dance Showcase on 28<sup>th</sup> March 6pm in the Hall. They have worked extremely hard to create a group piece using all their skills. They must now ensure they check Google Classroom and complete all home learning that is set. After Easter they will begin to learn their Set Phrases and look at a new professional work.

## **Music**

This term our Music students have been practicing working on their Ensemble performances. This time next year they will be "doing it for real". They must record themselves performing with other musicians showing their knowledge and understanding of ensemble skills. This is much more difficult than recording their solo performance as they have to be organised and disciplined about attending group rehearsals. The Easter Holiday is crucial time for extra independent rehearsal on their part ready for recording the final performance of the course when we return to school. Running along side this scheme of work, they have been improving their knowledge and understand on the set studies "Little Shop of Horrors". We have now finished all the set works in this field which means we will all move on to the Mozart set study next term. The Year 10 music students have recently completed a mock listening paper listening to unfamiliar tracks and questioned on the set study - "Little Shop of Horrors". These will be marked over the holiday and results published privately on google classroom when complete.

The Google Classroom Music Department now has a revision topic. The revision resources have always been in the music google drive but the school would like a consistent place for resources and this is now where it is stored. There are plenty resources - audio for set studies, analysis, exam questions, revision videos, revision posters chunked down and revision summary on each set study including a glossary of AQA keywords. Please encourage your son or daughter to revise over the holiday including listening to the set studies repeatedly as well as the home learning set.

Our Senior Choir has been a great success for many years and this year is no exception. Over 60 members performed at Congleton Town Hall on 20<sup>th</sup> March at the Cheshire East Secondary school



Choirs Music Showcase. They also performed in a school concert this term. The students sang a wide range of songs in 4-part harmony.

If you have any questions about coursework please do not hesitate to contact Mr Western on [cgw@phs.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:cgw@phs.cheshire.sch.uk)

### **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 fantastic half term, especially with the mock exam period. We hope you have a brilliant Easter holiday and look forward to welcoming students back on Tuesday 16th April.

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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