



Poynton High School

Year 11 Parent and Carer Bulletin – March 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

As Year 11 end their final full term at Poynton High School, I wanted to write to you with some important information. Year 11 have worked so incredibly hard this half term. It has been a challenging term for students, completing their second set of mock examinations and preparing for their final GCSE examinations. A massive well done to students for the effort and determination they have shown during this time. We were really pleased with how students performed in the mock exams that they have done.

As we enter their final weeks at Poynton High School, it is essential that students attend all lessons and work with us at all times so that they make the most of the opportunities. Please take time to read this bulletin which contains important information with regards to exams, revision and subject updates.

Revision and examination support

It is important that students use Easter to have some time off but to also focus on revision. The reward is the time off after the exams are finished when they can look back with pride on their hard work and preparation.

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'. Students have looked at this during form time and in lessons. Thank you to all parents who attended our revision support evening this term so that you can support your young person with their revision. 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>

<https://www.phs.cheshire.sch.uk/parents/helping-your-child-with-learning>

We recommend that students should be doing a minimum of 3 hours of revision each day over the Easter break, taking rests in between, doing activities they enjoy and having one full day free from revision

Students can also find lots of resources and revision tips on the Year 11 Google Classroom and in their subject classrooms as well. You will also find subject specific revision advice in this bulletin. 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.

ParentPay

If your child has any dinner money debts, these must be cleared in advance of them finishing school. Any credit dinner money balances must be used up before the student leaves. We hope that this notice will be of help to you in planning.

Examinations

All students will receive the summer examination timetable before Easter.

Please use the Easter holiday to ensure that your young person has all the equipment they require for their examinations. Equipment should be in a clear pencil case and include:

- Black pens (multiple so students have spares)
- Pencils
- Ruler
- Rubber
- Scientific calculator
- Protractor
- Pair of compasses
- Set square
- Water bottom with no label or printed works/symbols on.

We will be sending out more information regarding the formal GCSE examinations after Easter.

Important dates

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

English

The table below shows the directed revision programme that the students are currently following.

Fortnight beginning	Literature	Language	Revision sessions
Easter holiday	<i>Macbeth</i> directed revision booklet	Writing directed revision booklet	

15 th April	<i>Jekyll and Hyde</i> directed revision booklet	Paper 1: purposeful practice exam paper	Thursday 18 th of April – Jekyll and Hyde Thursday 25 th of April - Macbeth
29 th April <i>Exams start 9th of May</i>	Perform: directed revision booklet	Paper 2: purposeful practice exam paper	Thursday 2 nd of May - Macbeth Friday 10 th of May: final practice for Paper 1 Literature
13 th May <i>Exam period</i>	Monday 13th of May: Paper 1 Literature exam	Paper 1: purposeful practice booklet	Friday 17 th of May: final practice for Paper 2 Literature
	Monday 20th of May: Paper 2 Literature exam	Thursday 23rd of May: Paper 1 Language	Wednesday 22 nd of May: final practice for paper 1 Language
Whit holidays		Paper 2: purposeful practice booklet	
<i>Exam Period</i>		Thursday 6th of June: Paper 2 Language	Wednesday 5 th of June: final practice for Paper 2 Language

Maths

Students have now received the grades and feedback from their February mocks and revision is now fully underway to best prepare them for their summer exams. In the summer students will sit three maths papers, two calculator and one non-calculator, which are all 1 hour and 30 minutes long. They will sit their first paper, the non-calculator exam, on Thursday 16th May, and the first of the two calculator papers on Monday 3rd June.

It is very important that students have access to all the equipment they may need to complete the exam, so please ensure that your young person has access to the following:

- Black or Blue Pen
- Pencil
- Ruler that measures up to 30cm
- Protractor
- Pair of Compasses
- Calculator for Paper 2 and 3. We recommend a scientific calculator such as the following: <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Casio-FX-85GTCW-Black-Scientific-Calculator/dp/B0BVW38KQH?source=ps-sl-shoppingads-lpcontext&ref=fplfs&psc=1&smid=A2MSGSXEPCTDF>

It is important that students familiarise themselves with how to use their exam calculator, so it is best to purchase one of these as soon as possible if needed.

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.

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 11 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
Biology	<p>Separate Science Students: Have been 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 have carried out their final Required Practical into Antibiotic Resistance. They have also studied genetic engineering and cloning techniques and have carried out a cloning experiment.</p> <p>Combined Science Students: Have been learning about the causes and importance of variation in a species and how Darwin's Theory of Natural Selection explains evolution.</p>	<p>Separate Science Students: Will finish learning Paper 2 content and being a revision programme to prepare for their final assessments.</p> <p>Combined Science Students: Will finish learning Paper 2 content, which will include investigating genetic engineering and selective breeding. We will then begin a revision programme to prepare for their final assessments.</p>
Chemistry	<p>Separate Science Students: Have revised for, sat and evaluated a Paper 2 mock examination. They have worked through a chunked revision booklet to guide them.</p> <p>Combined Science Students: Have revised for, sat and evaluated a Paper 2 mock examination. They have worked through a chunked revision booklet to guide them.</p>	<p>Separate Science Students: Students will be completing the Using Resources topic (C10) before starting revision, with a focus on required practicals and past paper questions.</p> <p>Combined Science Students: Students will be completing the Using Resources topic (C10) before starting revision, with a focus on required practicals and past paper questions.</p>
Physics	<p>Separate Science Students: Students have completed their electromagnetism studies before starting the final topic of space.</p>	<p>Separate Science Students: Students will be completing the Space topic before starting revision, with a focus on required practicals and past paper questions.</p>

	Combined Science Students: Students have completed the last part of the electromagnetism topic before starting revision for their exams.	Combined Science Students: Students have now completed the physics course and will be revising, focusing on required practicals and past paper questions
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Assessments

Students have completed their Paper 2 mock exams and have spent time in lessons going through and evaluating these exams. Lots of students have improved on the Paper 2 mocks compared to the paper 1 mocks, so well done to those students!

Students will have received follow-up tasks to complete to help them identify and work on any areas they did not perform well on in the Paper 2 mocks. It is essential these are completed to ensure they are improving on those specific areas of focus

Revision Resources

All students will be given tasks to complete for Seach Science to help structure their revision. These will be given out before the Easter holidays for students to complete over Easter and will continue up until their GCSE exams start.

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 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>

History

Year 11 have begun revision sessions in class now that they have finished the final unit on the Reigns of King Richard and King John. Students should now be completing revision at home as well, there is plenty of material to help with this, exercise books cover all the topics needed to complete the exam papers, revision guides on our units can be useful and websites like Seneca Learning and BBC Bitesize can also be an excellent revision tool. All Year 11 students have been invited to join the History Revision Google Classroom page, there students will find past papers, quizzes and revision clocks on all papers, and other revision material. There are also checklists of the topics you will need to know for the exams. Finally, students should be reminded that there are revision classes on the American West run by the History department on Tuesdays and Wednesdays after school and they should sign up for these classes if they wish to attend.

Geography

The Year 11 geographers have had a super busy half term. They have all now completed their human geography fieldwork on the 2 dry days that we had in March and were a credit to themselves and the school as they collected their data in Poynton Village and then wrote up the data in the hall led by Miss Holyland. They are now focused on completing units on the Living World and Resource Management as well as another session in the Hall to follow up on work from the physical fieldwork days that we completed right at the end of the summer term of year 10.

As soon as we come back from the Easter school break, Year 11 will be studying the pre-release issue evaluation topic for their Geographical Skills paper which arrived in school just before the holiday. There will be some tasks set on this on Google Classroom for all students to look at whatever the topic might be and to complete before we study it in depth next term in class.

Revision is ongoing as we approach the practice stage of the year, using their exercise books, revision guides and flash cards and well as the past papers and their mark schemes that are on all students Google Classroom pages. We strongly advise students to use the strategies to revise effectively that have been covered in school.

As always there is lots of support and interesting clips on YouTube such as the BBC teach site here https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLcvEcrsF_9zJWR4l2x5PDp_X0dTJcdPg2 and through the BBC Bitesize pages for geography students. The 'Time For Geography' website <https://timeforgeography.co.uk/> has lots of short clips to help with those tricky river and coastal processes and landforms as well as resource management and climate change.

MFL

Well done to Year 11 students for their work this half-term! Year 11 have now finished the German and Spanish course and can now concentrate on revision.

There was a lot of improvement in the Listening skills from the scores in the most recent mocks!
Well done Y11!

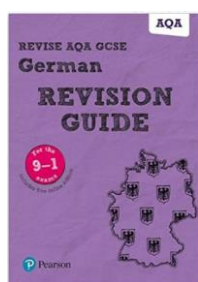
Revision and exams:

After the Easter holidays, Y11 will sit the first part of their French and Spanish exams. The **Speaking exams** which account for 25% of the final grade will take place between **Monday 29th April and Tuesday 7th May**. Each teacher will give their classes the exact days and times for the Speaking exams. **This is an official exam and we will appreciate parental support in ensuring students are in school, on time.**

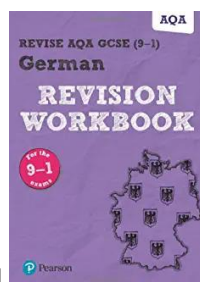
Over the Easter holidays, students should be concentrating on practising for their Speaking exam. There are past papers available in the department and staff have put some on Google Classroom. Little and often works well for languages, so 15-20 min a few times a week works better than a long revision session. A [parent's guide to MFL](#) is available on the school website. It contains some handy tips for revision in languages.

It's not too late to get revision guides online! You can the guides here:

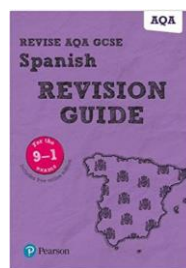
German:



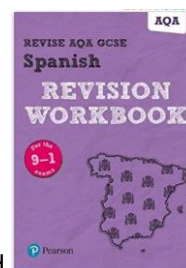
and



Spanish:



and



Useful websites:

Most 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_rench

German Department - @PHS_GERMAN

Spanish Department@PHS_Spanish

GCSE Business

Our Year 11 classes have come to the end of their final unit, finishing the course with External Influences on business. We've been lucky enough to work with Just Ice again. We also had the chance to visit the café to see their work in action, and sample the goods!

Students should use the Easter break to focus on their revision. They have a booklet which sets out their weekly revision tasks. They should use this in conjunction with their revision guide, BBC Bitesize and Seneca.

For those students who are pushing for the top grades, we would strongly recommend the Tutor2U exam board specific sessions on YouTube. These can be accessed through Google Classroom.

Enterprise and Marketing

Our Year 11 class have celebrated their results of their R068 coursework. They worked extremely hard to produce convincing pitches to present their designs. We were really impressed with the professional standard of the pitches. Students are now finishing their R069 assignments ready to send to the exam board on 1st May.

Students should use the Easter holidays to revise for R067. They should use their revision guide, the bank of online resources as well as the revision booklets given to them in class to focus their revision. They can also access a range of past papers on the OCR website and use their registration to Boost Learning to access revision materials and complete exam board approved revision quizzes.

Computer Science

Year 11 Computer Science students have been undertaking a recap of Systems Architecture, going over concepts discussed last year but this time going into more depth. Topics have included, architecture of the CPU, factors affecting CPU performance, memory (primary storage) and storage (secondary storage).

Following the completion of this, the students will also revisit algorithms, specifically searching and sorting algorithms. There will be a focus on exam questions in this area, giving the students the opportunity to practice being presented with a problem that they are to design an algorithm to solve. There will be a focus on using both a high-level programming language (Python) that the students have been studying since Year 10, and the exam board's own version of Pseudocode, known as Exam Reference Language, which will be used to write their algorithms in.

Year 11 students are now preparing for their upcoming examinations. They are working through the topic lists that can be found on Google Classroom. They have been given revision booklets and should be using these alongside all the resources they have been signposted to on Google Classroom. Revision sessions are held after school for Year 11 students in rm 36 on Wednesdays.

CNAT iMedia

Year 11 students are busy finishing off their Interactive Multimedia Presentations. This unit of work will be completed by Easter, allowing plenty of time to prepare for the examination unit R093. They have been given revision booklets and purchased revision guides and should be using these alongside all the resources they have been signposted to on Google Classroom

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

Students have been continuing with their NEA with the deadline of Thursday 28th March 2024. The way in which the Year 11 Product Design students have conducted themselves throughout their NEA has been fantastic and they have all worked so incredibly hard to reach the deadline. Although the deadline is the 28th March, if students need to work on additional elements over the holiday they can as long as it is submitted to Google Classroom by **Monday 15th April at 9am** as it is being marked on the inset day.

Next half term, the sole focus will be revision. We will revisit topics as well as do past papers so that students feel equipped for their exam in June.

Students have now been issued their revision workbooks and they also have their revision folders that they can take home to use as part of their revision.

Tasks will be set in lesson with revision homework's being set for students.

CNAT Sports Studies

Students are working on the exam unit content in all lessons. This is the final unit that students will complete to make up their final grade for CNAT Sport. They will sit this exam on 13th May.

There will be a study hour every Tuesday after school in Room 7 that students can take advantage of to support their theory knowledge and exam technique in preparation for this

GCSE PE

Students have been working hard and the Non-Examined Assessment part of the course has now been submitted to OCR for moderation. Provisional scores have been given to students, but these are subject to moderation from the exam board.

Students have covered all the content for both Paper 1 and Paper 2 and will now be focusing on revision and exam technique in lessons. We have begun this through do a 'Walking talking' style mock exam to support exam technique.

Student homework has been set around exam style questions and creating revision material to show their teacher.

Students have worked well in their theory lessons and this must be supported through their own work and revision during their own time.

GCSE PE Paper 1 exam is on Wednesday 22nd May and Paper 2 exam is on Monday 3rd June

Drama

Students have all **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* 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 have now also designed for/ performed in their **Component 2 (Performance from a Text 20%)**. An external examiner, friends, parents younger drama students attended. It was a fantastic two night celebration of their efforts.

Lessons next term 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

It is the Year 11 Practical Exam Day on the 28th March and our showcase that evening 6.00pm in the Hall. Tickets can be bought through Evolve or you can pay on the door, £5. They have been working extremely hard to create their pieces and the evening will be a celebration of their work. Over Easter they should be using the Revision Guide given to practice 12 mark questions using guidance in the guide. When they return they will have no practical and they will finish the last professional work they study.

Music

This term our Music students have been working on their Ensemble performances. 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 must 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. Once this unit is out of the way they can then focus on the composition and listening units. The next deadline will be to hand in their two compositions. Once this is complete we can then purely focus on the listening section more for every single lesson.

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 study repeatedly as well as the home learning set on Thursday.

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 20th 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

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 a fantastic term – your last full one! We hope you have a brilliant Easter holiday, have some rest and complete effective revision in this final push! We 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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