



TRUE LEARNING
PARTNERSHIP



Poynton High School and Performing Arts College

Head Teacher: Mr M Dean

Tuesday, 02 April 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you, and your family, managed to have a good break over the Easter weekend. The Spring term is always a busy period and I know that students and staff will have been ready for the holiday. Alongside the focus on academic work students have been involved in a wide range of other successful activities. Students in Years 9-13 enjoyed the opportunity of spending time with their exchange partners' families in Madrid and closer to home 100 students completed their practice walk for the Bronze DofE Award, with more pursuing the Silver and Gold Awards. There are also many other opportunities for students through clubs, leadership opportunities and links with the local community. To find out more please do follow us on X @PoyntonHigh or take a look at our fortnightly newsletters; the latest one can be found at <https://sway.cloud.microsoft/RxdhOLKak1MCFCSi?ref=Link>.

Good luck to our Year 11 and 13 students

Our students have been working really hard to ensure that they are prepared for the upcoming A level and GCSE exams. Although I hope that these students do manage to have a break at some point over Easter they will also want to use it to continue to build up their knowledge and skills in advance of the exams. They should follow all the advice that they have been given and ensure that revision is active and uses their memory as much as possible. They will also want to continue to plan questions using the past papers, markschemes and examiners' reports that are available on the exam board websites. I know that Miss Dovey and Mr Bennett have written to parents separately with more detail about revision and the final weeks in school but I wanted to extend my personal best wishes to Year 11 and 13 students.

Exams for students in other years

Year 10 students have just completed their exams and in the summer term all students in Years 7-9 and Year 12 will sit exams and assessments as we believe that it is important that skills in exams and revision are developed from Year 7. Year 9 and 12 have exams in April and Years 7 and 8 will have their exams in June. They will have been taught revision skills in each subject and there is advice for parents at [Poynton High School - Supporting Your Child with Learning \(pohs.cheshire.sch.uk\)](https://poyntonhighschool.cheshire.sch.uk). The best way to build knowledge over time is to keep returning to material and I wish these students luck.

We have shared our Preparation, Performance and Progress revision strategy with parents previously and launched it with Year 11 parents earlier this term at an evening in school. The

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strategy is based on the research of academics such as John Dunlosky of Kent State University who has researched the effectiveness of revision techniques. This research shows that tasks which actively practise recall work best and we have worked with students on that idea.

A warm welcome to our new Year 7s

Today I wrote to the parents of those students joining our Year 7 in September. The Summer term is a really important time in the transition to High School and we are pleased to have such good links with the primary schools. We have already been welcoming many students in for transition taster mornings and in the summer we host more, culminating in our induction day and our Menai 'Bridging the Gap' residential. I look forward to meeting students and parents in the summer term.

Celebrating students

We are always keen to celebrate success and do this through the House points which you and our students can access on Class Charts. At the end of term I met with a range of students to congratulate them on their effort and engagement and I have written to parents to share these comments. We are also planning our Key Stage 3 Awards Evening to which we invite the parents of Year 9 students who have received subject and other awards and we are hosting a separate Governors' Celebration Event at the end of the summer term. Both these events are fantastic ways of celebrating student achievement in lessons and in other aspects of school life.

Year 9 Options

We had an excellent response by Year 9 students to the options process and are now reviewing their forms to build the curriculum for Year 10 next year. We will be able to let them know their final choices after Easter. Thank you for all the support that I know parents have put in to this process.

Thank you again to all our parents for your support and I look forward to welcoming students back after Easter.

With best wishes,



Matthew Dean
Headteacher