

Poynton High School

and Performing Arts College

Head Teacher: Mr D. Waugh

Thursday, 01 October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope that this letter finds you all safe and well. Please find below a range of updates from us here at Poynton High School, mainly Covid-19 curriculum focussed but also a very exciting announcement in regard to our new Head Teacher from 1st January 2021 onwards. Please continue to send in your questions in regard to Covid-19 management and I will attempt to address them either in person with a direct response, via our website and twitter feeds or in my fortnightly letters.

Contingency Planning for additional lockdown measures

There are a range of scenarios that I am actively planning for and I have detailed these in the table below. Our planning for the continuation of learning in the event of additional lockdown measures is not a “one size fits all” and I hope that you will see from the table below that we are enhancing the work, resource and focus under each set of circumstances.

At time of writing, we are presently on two INSET days here at Poynton High School. The focus for these two days is multifaceted and the vast majority of the time is dedicated to time in departments and teams. The focus for these two days, alongside assessment and the recovery curriculum, is planning for the following phases of Covid-19 response:

1. Tier One Phase One A
2. Tier One Phase One B
3. Tier Two
4. Tier Three

I have attempted to summarise the challenges of each of these in the table below so that you are aware of our work and our proactive planning areas. These next two days are vital to support our readiness and response to the on-going challenges and to give us the capacity to ensure we are able to ‘flick the switch’ between each phase as and when required. There is not a ‘one size fits all’ response and each team and subject will respond differently according to their learning and curriculum needs.

<u>Phase/Tier</u>	<u>Description of Challenge</u>	<u>Summary of our planning response</u>
Tier 1 Phase One A	“...everyone in but challenged by student fluidity”. In other words, the phase we are in now where all students are in school except those who are self-isolating or have tested positive. This means that in a class you could have 25 students in front of you and 5 students self-isolating at home accessing Google Classroom. This will not be a consistent split of students, i.e. the	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of the “Self-Isolating” groups on Google Classroom • Two-week blocks of work posted on Google Classroom for each year group in each subject • Possible live streaming of post 16 lessons alongside in-school lessons

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	<p>same 5, nor will it be for a consistent length of time. Some students may be out for 48 hours awaiting tests, other for 14 days on self-isolation. As the term progresses the fluidity of students in and out of school through self-isolation is likely to increase more and more, hence Phase One A is about how we respond to such student fluidity. I believe that we will 'exist' in this phase for an extended period of time.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possible links to The National Oak Academy or other on-line "off the shelf" packages • Use of Century Tech Artificial Intelligence on-line package • Purchase of "off the shelf" work packs to support students • Uploading of already existing departmental resources
Phase One B	<p>"...everyone in but challenged by staff fluidity". In other words, the phase we are in now where all staff are in school except those who are self-isolating or have tested positive. At time of writing this e-mail we are relatively settled on this front, i.e. limited number of staff self-isolating, however as the term progresses we are likely to have more and more staff required to self-isolate. Please note, if I ask a member of staff to self-isolate because they are a "contact" then they will be self-isolating for 14 days. There will be two types of staff absence, firstly self-isolating as they are a 'contact' of a 'Covid source', these staff will be at home, available for home-working, for 14 days. Secondly, staff who exhibit symptoms or have tested positive. If they have exhibited symptoms then they will be at home until a test result comes back negative and this can be up to 5 – 7 days. If they test positive then they will be at home for 10 days. Phase One B is about how we respond to such staff fluidity. I believe that we will 'exist' in this phase for an extended period of time.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worksheet packs ready to go if we have a high demand for cover with late notice • Pre-printed packs ready to just take off the shelf • Pre-printed paper copies of the "Self-Isolating" group work that is on Google Classroom • Pre-printed assessments for cover lessons • Securing of additional supply teachers and ex-colleagues coming back to the classroom • Pre-recorded live lessons • Pre-recorded key concept videos
Tier Two	<p>Rota Based in-school provision. At some point the local authority (or other external body) may tell us to move into a "Tier 2" phase. This is where we will have half of the school in school one week, with the other half at home. Then vice versa the following week. Tier 2 may happen however it may be that we never actually get there unless there is a serious level of local transmission in the Poynton area. All staff would be required to attend site under tier two. This will involve years 7, 9, 11 on site during week 1 and years 8, 10, 12 13 on site during week 2.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full modules of work, ready to go, when we 'flick the switch' • Dedicated sections of Century Tech which are reserved for the move to Tier Two • Dedicated sections of other online learning platforms that are held in reserve for Tier Two • Adjustment of schemes of work so that they can be delivered in hybrid one-week blocks, i.e. one week in school, one-week remote learning • Adjustment of schemes of work so that parallel learning can occur, i.e. a series of work that is dedicated for the in-school

		time alongside a series of work that is dedicated for the at home time.
Tier Three	Everyone at home except key worker and vulnerable students.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full modules of work, ready to go, when we 'flick the switch' • Preparedness for working from home • Live lesson planning • The full PHS Remote Learning Plan to be instigated, involving live lessons, tutorials, dedicated work packs, etc.

As you will see from the table above, the contingency planning is extensive and we are actively ensuring that no matter what the scenario we face, our students will be supported effectively to continue their learning, welfare, safety and support. At time of writing, I have adjusted our staffing so that I have brought in an additional 2.5 full time teaching staff to support this, over £100,000 of additional staffing.

Hand Sanitiser and Cleaning

We now have hand sanitiser machines in every classroom in school. In addition, we have over 30 machines in social areas, on corridors and on the outside fences at the entrances to school. This means that we have over 150 hand sanitiser machines alongside the £10,000 worth of additional hand washing stations. I have also taken delivery this week of two handheld electrostatic disinfectant sprayers. We will be using these in addition to our enhanced cleaning schedule to support the rapid turnaround of specialist provision rooms. As previously communicated, our planning has allowed us to continue with subjects such as PE, dance, drama, practical science, product design and food and textiles. This is because we have been able to keep these areas in their own specialist bubbles with a cleaning schedule between uses. These new handheld electrostatic sprayers will enhance and quicken the cleaning turnaround and also allow us to rapidly clean offices and other key areas of school.

Transport to and from school

Thank you (again) for your understanding in dropping students off away from our school site. As the winter weather draws near, it is really important that we continue this and ensure that all students who live within 2 miles of school, which covers the entirety of Poynton Village, walk to school. If you are driving your children towards school please ensure that you drop them off at a distance away from the school site and also taking into account that we have three of our partner primary schools in the very near vicinity. Please be encouraged to talk to your children about the use of masks on buses. We are working with the Local Authority and Transport Service Solutions to ensure that students sit in year group bubbles and wear their masks throughout the journey to and from school.

Update on Covid-19 cases

You will have received a letter last Sunday informing you that we had a positive case. Since the start of term, we have only had two positive cases associated with our direct school family, one student and one member of staff. I am so very pleased to be able to report that both are well and have either recovered or are recovering. This is an extremely low case rate and has only resulted in approximately 3 staff needing to self-isolate and less than 50 students. I am very aware that this is extremely low compared to a lot of schools in the country and I must offer praise to both Public Health and Cheshire East Local Authority for their support and advice. Our on-going management continues to be robust and we are working in partnership with all of our primary and secondary school colleagues in a combined and effective response.

New Head Teacher

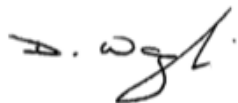
It is my genuine pleasure to confirm for you that the Governing Body and members of the Trust Board have confirmed the appointment of our very own Mr Matthew Dean as the new Head Teacher of Poynton High School from 1st January 2021 onwards. Matthew has been successful through a very thorough and robust appointments process and demonstrated his passion, his experience, his skills and his dedication to our

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school. This is a great appointment for Poynton High School as we move forward in the next stages of our journey and I know I speak on behalf of us all when I say congratulations, good luck and 'may the force be with you'. This is an amazing school, filled with amazing students, supported by amazing, dedicated and experienced staff. It is the greatest privilege of my career to have served you for the last 7 years and for the next 3 months ahead of us. I will ensure a thorough and robust induction and handover period and look forward to continuing to be your head teacher and trust leader until the end of this term.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Waugh'.

Mr David Waugh
Head Teacher

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