



Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope this bulletin finds you and your families safe and well. It has been a very strange half term, but the students have been brilliant and it has been so great to get back into the classroom and back into school life. It has been a pleasure working with the Year 9 students over the last seven weeks, and the KS3 Team are really looking forward to celebrating all of their inspiring achievements throughout the year ahead. Inside this bulletin you will find an overview of what is being studied in different subject areas, as well as some ideas about what is ahead next half term.

Cultural Passport

- It has been amazing to see the Cultural Passport sessions in form times throughout this half term.
- The students have made a fantastic effort to complete all of the challenges set to them.
- Next half term, Year 9 will be looking at 'The Arts' and set challenges around this theme!
- Remember – follow @PHSYear8and9 on twitter for regular updates on the Cultural Passport sessions and the challenges.

English

- Reading and beginning their study of *Of Mice and Men* which involves a piece of persuasive writing and an essay exploring a key character. These reflect the Reading, Writing and Literature assessments they complete at Key Stage 4
- Watching any of the film versions of *Of Mice and Men* would help to consolidate students understanding of the book
- Encourage students to read as many books as possible! The more they read, the more they become used to understanding a wide variety of texts
- Encourage students to ask as many questions as possible and get involved with the various activities and learning experiences on offer!

Maths

- All students have engaged with a short period of revisiting topics that would have been covered in class over the previous summer term.
- This was an essential element in starting the school year ensuring all students felt confident in the work that had been carried out before summer and allowed us to start this year's curriculum secure in the knowledge that all students had the requisite understanding to build upon this year.
- We have two new systems in place at the start of this school year. Century Tech is our new online education platform which tailors an individual learning plan for each student depending on their strengths and weaknesses. All students have had time to get to use these new packages but if we could ask that all parents get to access these platforms over the half term break then you will know what tasks that your child has been set.
- Students will be formally assessed in two ways; classroom assessments and home learning tasks. Classroom assessments may take two forms end of topic style tests and more formal termly tests which will assess a range of different topics and. Home learning tasks are set in class and will be available via Google classroom.

Science

- This half term students have completed 3 lessons on the topics they covered during lockdown. These were:
 - The Body
 - Rocks
 - Light
- They all completed a GC multiple choice on each topic.
- Following this students started this year's course which has begun with the following topics:
 - Biology- Cells
 - Chemistry- Basic Chemistry
 - Physics- Energy.
- They will have test of these topics in November.

Religious Studies

- Year 9 have been working on an introduction to Philosophy this half term and have looked at ideas from thinkers such as Aristotle and Thomas Aquinas.
- They should have now completed or be working to complete a balanced argument on the existence of God.
- After half term they will be starting to look at Ethics and will be thinking about difficult social issues such as capital punishment and nuclear weapons.

Geography

- This half term, the Year 9 students have been looking at 'Factfulness'. Over the last few lessons, they have looked at how we think about the world around us and how actually things may not be as bad as we have a tendency to think...
- Next half term, the students will be looking at 'Risky World' – what different risks there are and where they are around the world.
- Be sure to keep up to date with the news for lots of geography happening at the moment!

MFL

- In French and Spanish, students are covering the content of the first 2 GCSE topics to give them a head start for those who choose to carry on with GCSE in Year 10.
- Assessments:
 - They will sit their first set of assessment tests after the half-term holidays.
 - They will be assessed in the following skills: Listening, Reading and Writing.
 - Each individual member of staff will organise their own schedule and tell their classes when the assessments will take place.
 - The tests will comprise a set of activities similar to what they have done in class but under test conditions.
- Useful websites:
 - Most students will have had access to www.memrise.com, www.quizlet.com or www.pearsonactivelearn.com already.
 - These are great websites to revise at home too.
 - All students should have written their usernames and passwords for the different websites on the first page of their vocab booklets.

Food Preparation and Nutrition

- Students have been focusing on theory tasks within school as due to the current circumstances we do not have the provisions to hold practical lessons in school.
- Therefore, practical home learning tasks have been set via Google Classroom.
- All practical home learning tasks are optional as we are aware that it may be difficult for some families due to the current circumstances.
- However, we would encourage students to cook at home where possible.

Textiles

- Students have been focusing on theory tasks within school as due to the current circumstances we do not have the provisions to hold practical lessons in school.
- There will be an optional KS3 practical Halloween competition task set 19.10.20. Please submit your response to your class teacher via Google Classroom. House points and prizes to be won.

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 everyday:
 - Pens – blue or black
 - Red pen
 - Pencil
 - Ruler
 - Protractor
 - Pair of compasses
 - Calculator
 - Rubber
 - Reading book

- Mask
- It would also be handy to have scissors and glue!

COVID-19 Health and Safety

- Our students have been brilliant at adapting to the new measures put in place to keep everyone in our school community safe this year. We are grateful to them for following these rules.
- It is essential that students wear a mask in the school buildings and when in any covered areas.
- Student Year group bubbles have been allocated toilets – these are the only toilets they can use. This is to keep year groups separate.
- The number of students allowed in the toilets at any time is clearly labelled on the door – please adhere to these restrictions.

Well done once again to all of the students for making such a great start to this academic year. A final thank you and well done on such a brilliant term. Have a lovely and restful half term break and we look forward to welcoming you all back on Monday 2nd November.

If you have any queries about anything school related, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Thank you for your continued support.

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