



## **Poynton High School**

### **Year 11 Parent and Carer Bulletin – October 2020**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Year 11 have made a fantastic start to year 11 this academic year, and have responded in such a mature way to the unusual times we find ourselves in.

Each half term I will send out a year group bulletin, inside you will find important information about what is coming up after the half term break for our students and includes strategies suggested by subject tutors to ensure students achieve their maximum potential.

#### **Maths**

Revision guides have been ordered and will be given to students as soon as they arrive in school. Students should use these alongside the PiXL Maths App to revise. One of their home learnings per fortnight is to revise specific topics. Year 11 students will be sitting a full maths mock in December, this will consist of 1 non-calculator paper and 2 calculator papers.

#### **English**

We have been so impressed with how our Year 11 pupils have responded to the challenges of this half term. Students have produced wonderful work in response to their recovery curriculum, and have been fantastic at using Google Classroom to submit work, join lessons, and have dialogues with their teachers. Well done!

- Year 11 students have been working on their study of 'An Inspector Calls' and have completed an assessed piece on Mr Birling.
- Students have now studied every aspect of both their GCSE English Literature and GCSE English Language courses, and after half term will be starting the process of revisiting each one, developing their understanding, analysis and confidence in exam approach. We will begin by looking at the 'Power and Conflict' poetry, and therefore students will need their anthologies in lessons.
- This year, the Literature exam structure has changed. Paper 1 will now be assessing 'An Inspector Calls' and 'Power and Conflict' poetry, while Paper 2 will assess 'Macbeth' and Unseen Poetry.
- Year 11 will be sitting 2 papers in their December mocks: Language paper 2 (Non-fiction) and Literature Paper 1 (An Inspector Calls and Power and Conflict poetry)

#### **English Revision**

- At KS4, students should always be keeping up with steady revision. All pupils have either a GCSE English Language or a GCSE English Literature revision task set on Google Classroom each week to support their studies. These will form the foundation of their revision over the two year course and should be submitted on time on Google Classroom. Pupils should also keep a copy so they can refer to it later.

- The English department has produced a series of Revision Skills Flowcharts to help point your son/ daughter in the right direction if they are feeling stuck about how to approach the independent revision that they should be doing on top of the tasks set on Google Classroom. Hopefully these will also enable you to support your child at home.
- Reading at home will always be beneficial to your child's English studies, whether this is re-reading the texts for Literature, reading a newspaper or curling up with their favourite book. Your support with this is much appreciated.
- In addition to the work set by your child's teacher, there are fantastic revision guides and resources available to buy to support your child with their revision. Here are some suggestions:

#### Power and Conflict Poetry:

- [https://www.amazon.co.uk/GCSE-English-Literature-Poetry-Guide/dp/1782943617/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1509810132&sr=8-1&keywords=power+and+conflict+revision](https://www.amazon.co.uk/GCSE-English-Literature-Poetry-Guide/dp/1782943617/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1509810132&sr=8-1&keywords=power+and+conflict+revision)
- [https://www.amazon.co.uk/AQA-Poetry-Anthology-Power-Conflict/dp/129213805X/ref=sr\\_1\\_6?ie=UTF8&qid=1509810132&sr=8-6&keywords=power+and+conflict+revision](https://www.amazon.co.uk/AQA-Poetry-Anthology-Power-Conflict/dp/129213805X/ref=sr_1_6?ie=UTF8&qid=1509810132&sr=8-6&keywords=power+and+conflict+revision)

#### Macbeth:

- [https://www.amazon.co.uk/Macbeth-York-Notes-GCSE-9-1/dp/1447982207/ref=sr\\_1\\_fkmr1\\_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1516198321&sr=8-1-fkmr1&keywords=revision+guides+macbeth+york+notes](https://www.amazon.co.uk/Macbeth-York-Notes-GCSE-9-1/dp/1447982207/ref=sr_1_fkmr1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1516198321&sr=8-1-fkmr1&keywords=revision+guides+macbeth+york+notes)
- [https://www.amazon.co.uk/Macbeth-English-Literature-Collins-Revision/dp/0008247080/ref=sr\\_1\\_fkmr2\\_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1516198481&sr=8-1-fkmr2&keywords=revision+guides+macbeth+york+notes](https://www.amazon.co.uk/Macbeth-English-Literature-Collins-Revision/dp/0008247080/ref=sr_1_fkmr2_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1516198481&sr=8-1-fkmr2&keywords=revision+guides+macbeth+york+notes)

#### An Inspector Calls:

- [https://www.amazon.co.uk/New-Grade-9-1-GCSE-English/dp/1789083443/ref=asc\\_df\\_1789083443/?tag=googshopuk-21&linkCode=df0&hvadid=310775890077&hvpos=&hvnetw=g&hvrand=387772278118369959&hvpone=&hvptwo=&hvgmt=&hvdev=c&hvdvcmid=&hvlocint=&hvlocphy=9046435&hvtargid=pla-681590228786&psc=1&th=1&psc=1](https://www.amazon.co.uk/New-Grade-9-1-GCSE-English/dp/1789083443/ref=asc_df_1789083443/?tag=googshopuk-21&linkCode=df0&hvadid=310775890077&hvpos=&hvnetw=g&hvrand=387772278118369959&hvpone=&hvptwo=&hvgmt=&hvdev=c&hvdvcmid=&hvlocint=&hvlocphy=9046435&hvtargid=pla-681590228786&psc=1&th=1&psc=1)
- [https://www.amazon.co.uk/Inspector-Calls-English-Literature-Revision/dp/0008235910/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?crid=1JV0KVVI3K00&dchild=1&keywords=snap+revision+an+inspector+calls&qid=1603278090&s=books&sprefix=snap+revision+%2Cstripbooks%2C138&sr=1-1](https://www.amazon.co.uk/Inspector-Calls-English-Literature-Revision/dp/0008235910/ref=sr_1_1?crid=1JV0KVVI3K00&dchild=1&keywords=snap+revision+an+inspector+calls&qid=1603278090&s=books&sprefix=snap+revision+%2Cstripbooks%2C138&sr=1-1)

#### GCSE English Language:

- [https://www.amazon.co.uk/English-Language-Complete-Revision-Practice/dp/1782944141/ref=sr\\_1\\_3?crid=4A6714V6V93L&dchild=1&keywords=aqa+english+language+gcse&qid=1603278161&s=books&sprefix=aqa+english+language+%2Cstripbooks%2C144&sr=1-3](https://www.amazon.co.uk/English-Language-Complete-Revision-Practice/dp/1782944141/ref=sr_1_3?crid=4A6714V6V93L&dchild=1&keywords=aqa+english+language+gcse&qid=1603278161&s=books&sprefix=aqa+english+language+%2Cstripbooks%2C144&sr=1-3)

## Science

### Assessments

All students will have completed an assessment this first half term and will have received feedback on this in lessons.

In addition, Y11 Science students will sit 2 mock exams this academic year:

- Mock 1 in December: Will assess Paper 1 content.
- Mock 2 in March: Will assess Paper 2 content.

### Revision for Paper 1 mock in December

To help support your child in preparing for the upcoming Science GCSE mock exams in December, the Science team has coordinated several revision resources to help ensure students are fully prepared. These include:

### Science Six

Students are set this task on Google Classroom every 2 weeks to complete in the back of the relevant science books. It is essential students complete these tasks to ensure they recap paper 1 content from Y9 and Y10.

### Chunked revision

All students will be set past paper questions on Google Classroom for Biology, Chemistry and Physics. There will be two questions to complete per science over half term, then one question per science will be set each week leading up to their December mock exams.

Students should revise the topics of the questions each week and then complete the exam questions to apply their knowledge and practice exam technique.

### Century Tech

All students have a log in for this which have been posted on their Science classroom on Google Classroom. On Century they are assigned nuggets for Biology, Chemistry and Physics. They first need to complete the assigned diagnostics which will then personalise their learning and provide further nuggets of work for them. Students will sometimes be assigned work by teachers but they can also use this independently, working through the nuggets as part of their own revision. Please encourage them to use it as it is an excellent resource for revision.

### 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 to order directly from CGP:

Double Science revision guides:

Higher tier: <https://www.cgpbooks.co.uk/secondary-books/gcse/science/combined-science/sahr45-grade-9-1-gcse-combined-science-aqa-revi>

Foundation tier: <https://www.cgpbooks.co.uk/secondary-books/gcse/science/combined-science/safr45-grade-9-1-gcse-combined-science-aqa-revi>

Triple science students (will need separate ones for Biology, Chemistry and Physics):

<https://www.cgpbooks.co.uk/secondary-books/gcse/science/biology/bar45-grade-9-1-gcse-biology-aqa-revision-guide>

<https://www.cgpbooks.co.uk/secondary-books/gcse/science/chemistry/car45-grade-9-1-gcse-chemistry-aqa-revision-gui>

<https://www.cgpbooks.co.uk/secondary-books/gcse/science/physics/par47-grade-9-1-gcse-physics-aqa-revision-guide>

## **MFL**

Year 11, in German, French and Spanish, students are working through module 6 of their respective course of the GCSE. All modules will be covered by February which will leave us plenty of time for revision and exam practice.

### Assessments

Year 11 will have an autumn assessment on Listening and Reading, covering all the content so far. In addition to this, individual teachers will be setting regular writing tasks both in class and as home learning. These writing pieces are important practice but also they are pieces of evidence for deciding on the correct tier of entry for students.

### Changes to the GCSE (summer 2021 only)

Students will now be formally assessed in the summer 2021 examination period in Listening, Reading and Writing but there will not be a formal speaking exam this year. The three remaining exams will now be worth a third of the overall grade each.

Speaking will be receive a separate teacher endorsement which will not contribute to the students' overall grade. It will be awarded as a Fail, Pass, Merit or Distinction.

In the Writing exam for 2021, students will have a choice of 3 questions rather than the usual 2 for the extended writing tasks. This means that students will still be able to access at least one of the questions even if they are not as confident on one of the theme.

For the Listening and Reading exams, the exam boards have removed the requirement to test students on unknown vocabulary. The language used in the exams will be from the specification in order to score marks.

### Useful websites:

Most students will have had access to [www.memrise.com](http://www.memrise.com) , [www.quizlet.com](http://www.quizlet.com) or [www.pearsonactivelearn.com](http://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. They can also use their google account to log onto memrise or quizlet.

There are also plenty of additional resources on the BBC Bitesize website (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/levels/z98jmp3>) and the Oak Academy (<https://www.thenational.academy/>)

Revision guides: recently, parents had the opportunity to order MFL revision guides. If you missed out, here are the references for them:

#### Revision guide

[https://www.amazon.co.uk/Revise-GCSE-French-Revision-Guide/dp/129213142X/ref=sr\\_1\\_3?dchild=1&keywords=french+revision+book+pearson+aqa&qid=1603286848&s=books&sr=1-3](https://www.amazon.co.uk/Revise-GCSE-French-Revision-Guide/dp/129213142X/ref=sr_1_3?dchild=1&keywords=french+revision+book+pearson+aqa&qid=1603286848&s=books&sr=1-3)

#### Accompanying workbook:

[https://www.amazon.co.uk/Revise-GCSE-French-Revision-Workbook/dp/1292131357/ref=sr\\_1\\_4?dchild=1&keywords=french+revision+book+pearson+aqa&qid=1603286888&s=books&sr=1-4](https://www.amazon.co.uk/Revise-GCSE-French-Revision-Workbook/dp/1292131357/ref=sr_1_4?dchild=1&keywords=french+revision+book+pearson+aqa&qid=1603286888&s=books&sr=1-4)

## **Religious Studies**

Students have studied a Buddhism topic titled 'The Dharma' and will shortly be moving onto the ethical topic of 'Religion and life.' Over the half term break students could spend some time ensuring they have all their class work complete and up to date. Students could also start to compile their class notes into personal revision notes for future use.

## **Product Design**

Students are busy working through their NEA tasks at present. They are researching in to their chosen context (Which has been published by Edexcel) and will be moving on to designing solutions to their problems after half term. This year the students do not have to manufacture their final designs but carry out a range of workshop tasks to prove their skill level on a range of equipment and machinery, meanwhile creating a 'design concept' which is a working model (this could be scaled down) of their final design. The theory work was mainly completed last year and in the lockdown period. Most students kept up to date with this and have prepared themselves for both the up and coming mock examination and the summer examinations although revision will become a larger part of their lessons as they progress through the year.

## **Food Preparation and Nutrition**

All Food home learning practical tasks are optional as we are aware that it may be difficult for some families due to the current situation. However, we would encourage students to cook at home where possible.

## **Business Studies**

Students have made an excellent start to their Year 11 studies, developing their understanding of the business world. Please ensure they are signed up to Seneca in order to complete their homework tasks and the AQA GCSE CGP revision guide can be purchased to support students with their learning.

## **BTEC Enterprise**

All students have started their Y11 studies with focus and determination and have been working to complete their assignments for component 1. This will count for 30% of their overall grade. After half term, we will return to the work we started on component 2 where students will be pitching their own enterprises. Please encourage your child to talk about their idea at home to build up their confidence before the pitches. It is also useful for them to consider the types of question they could be asked by the panel.

## **Music**

The music department are very proud of the challenges that GCSE students have overcome during this half term due to COVID 19. It has been an absolute pleasure to listen to the students perform their GCSE Performance pieces via google classroom and have received some personal feedback. We expect students to perform for at least an hour over the two week timetable as they would usually be timetabled for a performance lesson in the "normal" school climate. We are constantly reviewing when it will possible to perform together as a class again.

Over the last couple of weeks we have been experimenting with different types of music software to help assist the students working on their composition. We have chosen a fantastic web based sequencer which the students can use without the need of specialist expensive equipment both at home and at school. We will give the students more information on this next half term.

## **Transport to school**

### For the attention of Students using the School Buses

Please remind your young person that they **must be wearing their mask on the school bus**. If the school bus becomes stuck in traffic it is important that your young person stays on the bus, this is the safest place to be.

### Walking and cycling to school

It is fantastic to see so many students walking and cycling to school. Please remind your young person to make sure they are thinking about other road users and their own safety on their journey in to school.

## **Uniform Code**

As you will be aware we have changed the rules this year so students can wear their coats inside as they cannot access their lockers. We are also very aware as we go into winter that we are in a situation where we need to keep classrooms well ventilated as a preventative measure for COVID and have a positive learning environment.

Following discussions with our Governing body we have decided to alter our uniform code for this academic year to allow students to either wear a school jumper under their blazer or a plain navy-blue crew or V neck jumper/sweatshirt.

Blazers remain a compulsory part of the uniform, the jumper is in addition not as a replacement. We have taken this approach so students are warm in school but also considering the cost for parents. If there is a financial reason you are unable to purchase a jumper for your child please contact Mr Bennett [ADB@pchs.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:ADB@pchs.cheshire.sch.uk)

## **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/free\\_school\\_meals.aspx](https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/schools/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)

## **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 every day:
  - 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.

Thank you for all of your hard work year 11 and well done on such a brilliant half term. Have a lovely and restful holiday and we will look forward to welcoming you all back on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November.

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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