

Dear Parents and Carers,

Please find below the December bulletin for Year 7. It has been an amazing term for the Year 7s, with all of the students showing a fantastic level of effort and resilience to “jump in with both feet” and enjoy their first term in high school. It has been a privilege to start to get to know the students and for them to bring their energy to the Poynton family. There has been a brilliant amount of house points awarded and the high levels of effort has been echoed in the reports that were sent home at the end of last week.

Below you will find some general information, along with updates from individual subjects:

Please note: School closes at 12:30pm on Friday 18th December, with Year 7s leaving the site from 12:20pm. School reopens on Monday 4th January on week 2 of the timetable.

Important Dates - Spring Term

Mon 4 th Jan	School opens (Week 2 on timetable)
Fri 12 th Feb	School closes for half term
Mon 1 st Mar	Progress grades issued
Thurs 4 th Mar	Year 7 Parents' Evening (4pm-7pm online)
Thu 1 st Apr	Close for Easter holiday at 3pm

Reading

Year 7 have fully embraced the silent reading start to lessons since the beginning of the year. It has been lovely to see the students immersed in their chosen books and to have discussions with them about their reading choices. We will continue to promote reading at the start of each lesson and we would ask that students see their reading book as an essential part of their school equipment, also remembering that when they are near the end of their book they will need a second one ready to begin their next literary adventure.

Start and End of School Day

Two weeks ago, Year 7 were asked to change the entrance and exit that they use into the school building at the start and end of the day. This was due to the mock exams for Year 11 and 13 which continue in January. These slight changes can be viewed via the below link to our website. Please note that the end to the school day will continue to be 2:50pm for Year 7, to help with the orderly dispersal of the year groups at the end of the day.

[Year 7 Entrance & Exit Info Dec20-Jan21](#)

Food Bank Donations

The students and teachers of Poynton High School have been bringing in a huge number of items to donate to the Stockport Food Bank and Year 7 have made an amazing contribution towards this. We are so proud of the generosity of our students and their families and we thank you for the Christmas spirit that has been shown through the fantastic donation that can be made to the Trussel Trust.

Santa Dash

The Year 7s having been taking part in the Santa Dash during PE lessons this week. The run has been organised to raise money for the East Cheshire Hospice. The sponsorship of our Year 7s and the other students in Years 8 and 9 has been magnificent, with over £1000 already being raised before the run took place. A full update on the amount raised will be shared from PE at the end of this week. Thank you to everyone who took part and for raising so much money for such a worthy cause.



Uniform

Just to clarify the school rules regarding coats. We encourage students to wear a coat to and from school and, if appropriate, we will allow students to wear their coat in the classroom if the temperature is low due to the windows being open. However, we would encourage that any student that is feeling cold to wear a navy-blue jumper under their blazer as coats can become cumbersome and uncomfortable to work in during the day.

Please note that hoodies are not part of the school uniform and must not be worn under blazers.

We appreciate parents and carers invest a lot of money in school coats and uniform, please make sure that all items are named to make them easier for them to be returned if they are misplaced.

Applications for Free School Meals

We are aware that many families will have faced changes in financial circumstances over recent months. If your circumstances have changed, your young person may now be eligible for free school meals. Where young people access free school meals as a school we are also allocated additional funding to support the teaching and learning of young people within this cohort. To find out more about how to apply for free school meals please see the Cheshire East website here:

https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/schools/free_school_meals.aspx

Subject Updates

Science

Students have made a positive start to their Science studies at Poynton High School. Year 7 were the first year group to be able to complete COVID safe practical work and have been able to do a key practical in each topic completed. They have adapted extremely well.

Performance on the recent end of topic assessments was very good and 30 praise cards have been sent out to students who are already deemed to be working within 1 grade of their end of KS3 guidance grade. Progress as a cohort has been excellent and better than expected.

Virtual Science club has launched with a Christmas theme. Details of how to join this are on the students Google Classroom accounts for their Science group. This will continue in the New Year with experiments that can be done at home. Hopefully we will be able to resume it in the labs at some point in 2021.

Maths

As a maths team we would like to start by saying how well year 7 have adapted to life at Poynton High School. It has been an unusual time for the rest of us but it feels that the year 7 have quickly adapted to a new school and a new way of working. Well done!

As a maths team we have been conscious of adapting so that every student is given the opportunity to be challenged academically in lessons whilst feeling supported. In previous years we have had the Year 6 SATS to help us stream students into sets. Obviously, as the year 6 SATS tests could not take place, we took the approach to group students into similar abilities using the data that was available to us.

We understand that this is a worrying time for parents and students and we would like to take this opportunity to assure that all pupils are being challenged and making the desired progress in the maths that they are having delivered in lessons this year. We are making small changes to our maths classes all the time to ensure that every student can be correctly set in year 8 at no detriment to their learning and to maintain our reputation as being a high achieving school. We ask at this time that you work along with the school as we make these changes by ensuring that your child is prepared for lessons and for assessments by checking through their work regularly and that they complete all their homework including the formal "paper based", the online based Century as well as completing any of the work given in class. Now more than ever it is important that every little aspect of their school work that they are doing is completed so that we can ensure that they are in the correct set and accessing the best work for their ability.

Dates for the diary

Assessments for the spring term, revision lists will be made available 2 weeks before the date indicated via Google Classroom.

Spring Term Assessment

w/c 25th January

English

- Year 7 are currently completing/finishing a unit of Family;
- They are moving on to studying Place unit which involves three assessments. These reflect the Reading, Writing and Literature assessments they will complete at Key Stage 4;
- Please 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;
- All home learning is being set on a weekly basis on Google Classroom so please encourage students to complete this work and monitor their engagement with home learning tasks;
- Encourage students to ask as many questions as possible and get involved with the various activities and learning experiences on offer!

Modern Foreign Languages

Well done to Year 7 students in their first term of language learning at High School.



In German and French, students have started introducing themselves, giving personal information and opinions.

They have sat their first set of assessment tests where they were assessed in: Listening, Reading and Writing. The Speaking skill has not been assessed formally in a test but it is an integral part of the lessons and Year 7 students are making really good progress. For example, in French, students have made short videos in French talking about themselves and what they like about being back at school

Many Year 7 students have taken part in both our European days of Languages Virtual Bake off and our Christmas cards competitions. Well done to them, we were very impressed!

Useful websites:

Some 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

Music

We are very proud of how Year 7 have had to adapt to learning music whilst in a maths room rather than being taught in a specialist music room. It has not been easy for both students and teachers, but they have truly “jumped in with both feet”. We are so proud of the knowledge they have gained in music theory, their understanding and development of listening skills and even performance (using their body and IKEA cups) in a fairly quiet environment. Well done Year 7!

Religious Studies

Year 7 has done great work this half term looking at Religion and the community; focusing on different religious festivals from around the world. After the Christmas break we will be moving onto Religion and Equality and how different religious and ethical groups have worked to help see that all people are treated equally and fairly.

Product Design

The students have made a fantastic start to Product Design this term!

So far Year 7 have completed a range of design challenges, which test their level of creative thinking and also furthers their design skills. The major project for year 7 is to create ‘Blockheads’. We are now at a stage where all students have a final design of their ‘Character Inspired Blockhead’. They have carried out research, used this to design a range of ideas, learnt how to design using the isometric technique, they have then created a final design using this method.

In the new year we are extending the project to incorporate more design skills and further their range of techniques to fully prepare them in their PHS future of design.

Once they are timetabled for the workshops we can then begin their practical journey. We will focus on safety as a priority (Thank you to all parents/carers which have read and signed the ‘Safety Declaration’), confidence will gradually build for all students by using a range of tools and equipment. We have already had discussions with students and can see that some will already be confident using a workshop and carrying out a range of practical tasks.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your entire family a relaxing and peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year. We look forward to welcoming the students back on Monday 4th January on Week 2 of their timetables.

Eddie Latch

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