



Poynton High School

Year 10 Parent and Carer Bulletin – December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Year 10 have made a fantastic start to their GCSE subjects this academic year, our bulletin includes important information about what is coming up after the Christmas break for our students and includes strategies suggested by subject tutors to ensure students achieve their maximum potential.

English Literature

Year 10 have been working hard this term in their Literature lessons studying the first set of their Power and Conflict poems. They have also read *An Inspector Calls*, and should have good knowledge of the plot and key themes. We have been so impressed with how students have been tackling the analysis of the Big Ideas in these texts.

After Christmas, students will study three more of the poems from the Power and Conflict anthology, before moving onto beginning their study of *Macbeth*. Students have been assigned a homework on Google Classroom watch the Animated Tales version of the play to help them prepare.

English Language

Over the course of this year, students will be honing their skills for the GCSE English Language exams through a series of themed schemes of learning. The schemes have been designed not only to ensure exam success, but also to help our young people really understand the power that language has.

This half term, year 10 have been looking at the Language of Poverty and Crime, a non fiction scheme. After Christmas, we will be embarking on *A Study of Character*, which focuses on fiction for Language Paper 1.

Language and Literature general advice

1. Please encourage your young people to read as many books as possible! This include re-reading the set texts for Literature, but also any other fiction or non-fiction that interests them. The more they read, the more they become used to understanding a wide variety of texts. This will assist with their completion of the both Language and Literature GCSEs.
2. All home learning is being set on a weekly basis on Google Classroom so please encourage students to complete this work. These tasks are explicitly linked to the GCSEs, so students should be completing them to the best of their ability and making sure they are submitted on time to get feedback.
3. Encourage students to ask as many questions as possible in and out of lessons to clarify anything they are unsure of.
4. Look out for revision tips on our Twitter page @PHS_EngDept and revision videos on our YouTube channel, Poynton High School English.
5. Revision should start early! Encourage your young people to Use Century Tech for independent revision for English Language and English Literature.

Science

Assessments

All students will have completed their first assessments for Biology, Chemistry and Physics and have received feedback in class.

There will be a second assessment for each Science during the Spring Term.

Revision resources

Focus eLearning

All students have access to Focus eLearning. This is an online resource which can be used to revise the practical work in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. On this student can use simulations to carry out practical's and watch videos. This is a fantastic resource to revise the important required practical's that the students need to know. The log in details are:

Website: www.focuselearning.co.uk

Username: student@poyntoncounty2681

Password: qp3bczmr

Century Tech

Century Tech is an online revision journey that develops a personal learning pathway for each individual student – the more they do, the more it gets to know them and personalises their learning pathway. This is going to be launched for Year 10 Science in the New Year and students will receive individual log in details for this.

Revision guides

The majority of students have purchased these through school. 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 (recommended for students in sets x1, x2, x3, y1, y2):

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

Foundation tier (recommended for students in sets x4, y3): <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>

Maths

Year 10 have been working hard this term and have made a good start to the GCSE course. They have completed their first assessment that was based on GCSE style questions. This is the start of our preparations for the exams that they will take at the end of year 11. The assessment covered the topics that they have been studying since the start of term along with a number of 'problem solving' style questions. We have reviewed this in class and the students have received feedback on their performance. The next assessment is due to take place at the end of January, a revision list will be available on Google Classroom after Christmas to help with the students with their preparations for

this assessment. Now the students have seen this style of question it is important to practice their exam technique moving forward.

Homework is set on a weekly basis and is posted on Google Classroom. One of the tasks that is set is a written task that reflects the topics that have been recently studied in class. Please encourage your young people to work hard on these tasks. They should use their exercise books to help them with this work as they will find notes and examples that will help them with the questions that have been set. This work is always followed up with a Smart lesson in class where the students are able to review their work and ask questions about the task that they have completed. The students will also be set a home learning task using Century Tech. All students have been given their login for this resource and they should be doing a minimum of 30 minutes per fortnight on Century Tech.

We will be organising an order for revision guides and workbooks during the summer term and we will contact you ahead of this to give you the opportunity to order these for your young people.

Religious Studies

As the autumn term comes to an end, students will be finishing off a unit of study called Religion, Crime and Punishment. In this topic students have been learning about different types of crime, punishments the courts in the UK and issue to offenders and various religious responses to issues the topic raises. Students will be completing an end of unit assessment so need to ensure that they start to consolidate their class work and revise.

Geography

Year 10 Geographers have made an excellent start the GCSE Geography course. They are coming towards the end of The Challenge of Natural Hazards unit of work and will be completing an end of unit assessment shortly after the Christmas break. Students can get a head start with revision over the break for this assessment, it will cover everything we have learnt since September (Natural hazards, tectonic hazards, atmospheric hazards and climate change). After the break we will be moving on to the Urban Issues and Challenges unit.

Library Click and Collect

Mr Sheehan has created a new, simplified click and collect service if you would like to take out books from the library.

The Wakelet explains the new process:

<https://wke.lt/w/s/zg0-n1>

Product Design

Our Year 10 Product Designers have made such a great start to their course. They are an absolute pleasure to teach, we have discussions which include all students, they all are eager to learn and impress us with their skills...well done year 10!

In 2 out of the 5 lessons a week, the students have been working hard with Miss Corry on the theory side of the course. There is a lot to learn and the pace is fast. Please can all students make sure that their home learning work is completed on time so they can keep up with the learning. The

examination is worth 50% of their final grade so is extremely important that they have covered all aspects of the Product Design examination content.

In Mrs Burdett's lessons, we are in the middle of completing an architectural project based around 'Disaster Planning'. In this project the students have revisited isometric sketching and have just learnt how to create a technical drawing of their designs through an orthographic projection. They are now considering materials and their dimensions so we are fully prepared to start modelling their creations in January.

We will have a few more mini-projects to build their skills and confidence before the contexts for their NEA are published in June. From this point on we can begin their course work which is equal to 50% of their final grade.

Thank you so much for the parents which have given their voluntary contribution on ParentPay, it really does mean a lot to our subject and also means that we can deliver such a varied curriculum.

We are very excited to see what this class can achieve, it is always a special feeling for a teacher when the students in a class work so well together, it really does bring the best out of every student.

Business Studies

Students have made really positive start to their GCSE Business course having completed Unit 1 and now moving on to look at Human Resources or Finance. 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.

CNat Enterprise & Marketing

Students are working hard towards their exam in the summer. We have just completed an interim exam in class, please chat to your child about the score they received. Encourage them to revise topics as we complete them in class to develop their understanding.

So far we have looked at:

- Market segmentation
- Market research
- Costs, revenue and profit
- Breakeven
- Product life cycle and extension strategies

Please ensure they are signed up to Seneca in order to complete their homework tasks and the OCR Cambridge National Enterprise and Marketing revision guide can be purchased to support students with their learning.

Drama

Year 10 have been creating some great practical work and are in the middle of developing set designs. Students are also watching some amazing national theatre productions to inspire them in their choices.

The codes to access the national theatre and digital theatre are available for everyone and are:

Google drama on line
Log in to Access
User name Poyntonstudents
Password Pa55word
Click on Collections and click national theatre
Click on explore the collection
And enjoy a range of fabulous theatre.

Food Preparation and Nutrition

This term students have been continuing to work through theory topics including, cooking methods and heat transfer, food poisoning and symptoms, personal hygiene and prepping food, working characteristics – processing methods, vitamins, seasonal foods and provenance, senses, nutritional content of the main commodity group, food security, environmental impact, meat free diets and religion. Students completed a classroom assessment on these topics at the end of November. This will indicate to students' which topics they should revise further in their own time.

Students can revise using a number of different methods to suit their learning. We would suggest using class notes and revision guides to aid them with this task. Another helpful resource students could use are past papers. These can be found at – <https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/past-paper-finder/>

Unfortunately, due to the current circumstances we are unable to complete practical lessons in school. However, suitable practical skilled recipes have been added fortnightly to Google Classroom for students to complete at home in their own time. If students wish to adapt these dishes they are able to do so. Please encourage them to cook as much as possible at home during this time.

Textiles

During this term students have been working on Unit 1 – New and Emerging Technologies. Within this topic students have studied, industry and enterprise, sustainability and the environment, people, culture and society, production techniques and systems and informing design decisions. It is important for students to continue to study these topics at home through revision. This could be through, mind - maps, flash cards, or writing their own mock paper. Another fantastic resource students could use to revise at home are their revision guides and workbooks.

We have been able to safely facilitate practical lessons for year 10 Textiles. Students have been working on an interactive toy for young children. This toy will include a number of different techniques enabling them to learn a variety of skills such as, printing, applique, pocket construction, seam construction etc. It is important that students also complete design sheets linked to the practical work using Google Classroom to guide them. This will ensure that students are able to independently complete their design folder towards the end of year 10.

I Media

Students have just started their first assessment RO82 Graphics. They will be working on this up until February Half term and this is worth 25% of their final grade. Students will be working on this in all of their lessons in the next half term. All home works will be based on this assessment. Students are currently allowed to work on this at home.

Computer Science

This term students have been looking at unit 1 Computer Systems and exploring how computers work, and the purpose of the various components within. We then moved to looking at how data is represented, looking in detail at binary and its relationship with HEX and the various character sets. We have finished this term by watching extracts from the social dilemma, and the impact that technology and in particular social media, has on our lives. We will continue to explore how ethics and culture are impacted through technology in the new year, as well as networking as a whole.

Thank you for all of your hard work year 10 and well done on such a brilliant first term. Have a lovely and restful Christmas holiday and we will look forward to welcoming you all back on Monday 4th January 2021.

Please contact us if there are any issues or if you have any questions at all.
Thank you for your continued support.

Rhian Dempsey (rdempsey@phs.cheshire.sch.uk)
Director of Learning to key stage 4

A Handby (ahandby@phs.cheshire.sch.uk)
Welfare Leader to key stage 4