



International School Award
2010-2013



The TRUE Learning Partnership



Poynton High School and Performing Arts College

Head Teacher: Mr M Dean

29 January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

We are exceptionally proud of all our students. We understand how tough this lockdown is and we value all the students' efforts, as well as the enormous contribution you as parents/carers are making to support your child with their learning. As a school we are pleased to be working with you so our young people can be their best in these challenging times.

As you will be aware, the latest government announcement is that we will continue with remote learning until at least the 8th March. As soon as we know any more details about the reopening of schools to all students we will come back to you with our plan.

We are very grateful for all the feedback we have received from parents and from students through our questionnaires and focus groups. This feedback has been really valuable in helping us review our remote learning provision so that we can support the academic progress of the students and the wellbeing of our whole school community.

In this newsletter I wanted to highlight some of the actions we are taking in response to all of the feedback we have received. We are confident these measures will enable students to learn more effectively and ensure a strong emphasis on the wellbeing of the whole school community.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,

Catherine Holyland
Deputy Headteacher

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School Day

From Monday 1st February, all year groups will move to the following school day. This is in response to a great deal of feedback from students, parents and staff. It will ensure that students are ready to learn effectively when the lesson commences, rather than rushing from one lesson to the next. The fact that all year groups will have the same lunchtime will hopefully enable students to get some fresh air or have lunch with their siblings as some have requested.

8.45am – 9.00am	Registration
9.00am-9.50am	Period 1
9.50am-10.00am	<i>Wellbeing time</i>
10.00am-10.50am	Period 2
10.50am-11.20am	<i>Break</i>
11.20am-12.10pm	Period 3
12.10pm-12.20pm	<i>Wellbeing time</i>
12.20pm-1.10pm	Period 4
1.10pm-2.00pm	<i>Lunchtime</i>
2.00pm-2.50pm	Period 5
2.50pm-3.00pm	<i>Review time</i>

Wellbeing Time/Break/Lunchtime

We encourage all students to take proper breaks from their studies. In particular;

- Go outside and get some fresh air
- Have some screen free time
- Go for a short walk at lunchtime or do some other exercise
- Keep hydrated – get a drink of water
- Have a healthy snack
- Read a book
- Make your parent/carer a drink
- Send a positive message to one of your friends

Review Time

We encourage all students to use this time to take stock and get ready for the next day;

- Remember to submit any work you have been asked to
- If you have completed work on paper make sure it is in the correct book
- Tidy your desk and put all your books from today away
- Check your timetable for tomorrow
- Set out your books for the next day
- Charge your device for the next day

Our position on home learning after the end of the school day is set out below.



Home Learning

As you know from the letters Mr Dean and Mr Hoyle have previously sent, we have developed our reading strategy as a focus for home learning in Key Stage 3. The aim of this is to reduce the screen time students are having, give them some escapism but in a way, which also supports their academic progress. Research shows that reading improves students' understanding, widens their vocabulary and has a positive impact on their learning.



As we come towards the end of this half term the students in Key Stage 4 have shared with us how important they feel it to have time to review and reflect on their learning. We are therefore going to focus on the skill of consolidating their work. In form time next week they are going to be learning about different revision, review and retrieval techniques.



Following this we will encourage students to use their time after school to put these techniques into practice and reflect on the knowledge and skills they have learnt since January. The aim of this is for students to recognise how much they have learnt, how well they have been working and then be motivated to carry on with their studies after the February half term. Teachers will not set any new home learning for the last week of the half term in Key Stage 4. We also hope that students do not choose to spend excessive amounts of time working after school as this will not help them in the long term.

In the Sixth Form, teachers of Year 12 have been asked to focus now in lessons on revision for the upcoming assessment week, where we will be able to check students' current progress and identify important gaps in knowledge at this stage. It is important to reassure students that these are not 'mock' examinations and they are more to guide us in where to focus in our future lessons. Year 13 should continue to work on the content of each of their subjects as we await the outcome of the current consultation on how future assessments will work.

As a school we want to encourage students to have time away from their screens over the half term and so we will not be setting any new content-based home learning over the holiday. We hope students can have some time reading, getting some fresh air as daylight hours get longer and spend some time with family. The intention is that students will return to school refreshed and ready to learn effectively.

Year Team Wellbeing & Drop ins

Each year team has their own Google Classroom page. There is lots of information on them about:

- Mental Health Support
- Positive Wellbeing
- How to Revise
- Study Skills

The year teams are also running drop in sessions each week. All students are welcome to join and they just need to follow the link on the year group page.

Year 7 - Tuesday 3.30pm

Year 8 – Tuesday 3.15pm

Year 9 – Thursday 3.15pm

Year 10 - Thursday 3.15pm

Year 11 - Tuesday 3.15pm

Sixth Form students can contact Mrs Tupman directly [glT@pchs.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:glt@pchs.cheshire.sch.uk) at any time





If you think your child would benefit from any additional wellbeing support please e-mail the year teams or studentsupport@phs.cheshire.sch.uk

Parental Advice and Support

As a school we are very privileged to work with such a supportive group of parents. We understand, however, that being able to support your child is not always easy and knowing where to look for additional support can be difficult. On the school website is a link to <https://www.educare.co.uk/edusafe-pc> which is a resource for parents covering a wide variety of topics such as mental wellbeing, healthy lifestyles, understanding anxiety and dealing with bereavement and loss. For each topic there is advice to support your child and also links to other resources and agencies that can help.

Keeping Children Safe Online

With the current restrictions, we are aware our young people are spending more time online. As a result, it is even more important than ever that we support students to stay safe online.

We have created a page on the school website that provides links to information that parents might find useful in keeping children safe online <https://www.phs.cheshire.sch.uk/keepingsafeonline>

On the 9th February we will be marking Internet Safety Day and around this time our students will be learning more about staying safe online during their form time and computing lessons.

Laptop Donations

We have received some very kind offers of laptops donated to school for the use of our students at home, a huge thank you for these! If you have a working laptop at home that isn't being used (compatible with Windows 7, with a charger) that you would be willing to donate to us to enable a young person to access their remote learning we would very much welcome your donation! All laptops will have their hard drive wiped before being allocated. Donations can be dropped off at reception during school hours.

Free School Meals Application

You can claim free school meals for each child who attends school in Cheshire East if you receive one of these benefits:

- Income Support
- Universal Credit
- 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)

You can apply by telephoning 0300 123 5012 or online at http://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/schools/free_school_meals.aspx

[If your child receives free school meals the money is put into their account automatically and they can spend it in the usual way. During lockdown families receive vouchers which they can spend in their local supermarket.](#)



Through accessing free school meals your young person would in turn be eligible for support with resources in school (such as revision guides etc, where we would normally ask for parental contributions) through our Pupil Premium fund.



Important Dates

11 th February	Year 10 online Parents' Evening
24 th February	Year 9 online options information talk
4 th March	Year 9 re arranged Parents' Evening
11 th March	Year 7 online Parents' Evening
24 th March	Year 12 online Parents' Evening
21 st April	Year 8 online Parents' Evening



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