



Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this bulletin finds you and your families safe and well. This bulletin marks the end of a full half term of online learning and I speak on behalf of all staff to say a huge well done to all of our students who have adapted to the online lessons so brilliantly. Even though we are working in different places, it has been great to keep in contact with the students through lessons, form times and assemblies, but we look forward to being back in the classroom, whenever that may be.

The bulletin includes updates from different subject areas and an insight into what is to come next half term.

English

- Year 8 have been studying Shakespeare's Richard III thinking about ideas such as kingship and what makes a villain.
- Next half term they will be looking at the topic of identity in which we look at a range of different genres of texts including poems and short stories that concern themselves with the notion of identity and considering how we view identity in the 2020's.

Maths

- As we approach another well-deserved half term break we would like to congratulate our students on their engagement in online learning and how quickly they have adapted to this new "normal" way of working.
- This half term our students have been using a variety of online platforms. In most cases when a student has been given first access to the platform they are given instructions which will be attached to their Google Classroom, however could we ask that you can check in with them to ensure they can access and log in to:
 - Google Classroom
 - Century Tech
 - Dr Frost Maths (your child may not have been asked to complete a task on this yet!)
- As we have obviously been unable to carry out our usual classroom assessments this half term teachers are looking at alternatives ways to assess their understanding. Commonly students are being asked to submit photographs of the work carried out during lessons. While it is true that most students have become technically proficient in doing so, it is important that all students are able to do this so we are able to check in with them and look for opportunities to help. Can you please encourage your child to upload the work that they have asked at the end of the day during their "review" time.
- While we are not encouraging more screen time for our students, the websites below have some useful mental maths activities to ensure students basic numeracy is practiced.
 - <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/daily10>
 - <https://www.timestables.co.uk/games/>
 - <https://completemaths.com/teaching-tools/digital-manipulatives/timestables>

Science

- This half term students in Y8 have completed their second 3 topics, these were:

- Biology - Gas exchange and respiration
- Chemistry - Reactions of metals
- Physics - Electricity.
- Students have been set a teacher marked assessment on each of these topics, providing them with written feedback on how they have performed. They have also been set/are currently being set a GC form mini quiz which self-marks to give both them and staff instant feedback of how they have performed.
- Although practicals have been limited this half term, students have completed some at home, for example during a biology live lesson they had the opportunity to investigate how exercise affects heart and breathing rate. They made predictions and drew valid conclusions.
- Students have been using focus e learning to complete some of the practicals.
- The next topics that they will start after February half term are:
 - Biology - Plants
 - Chemistry - Reactions of acids
 - Physics - Sound
- Students should have purchased a revision guide at the start of Y7. All of these topics are in there and it is an excellent revision tool and resource to help them consolidate their knowledge and understanding. Students have also been assigned a course and relevant diagnostics on Century, a really useful tool to help them revise and consolidate.

Religious Studies

- Year 8 have made fantastic progress this half term talking about Hinduism.
- We have had some great discussion about the variety of gods in Hindu culture and what affect faith can have on their daily lives.
- This coming half term we will be looking at 'religion, art and culture' and asking what affect religion has on modern day culture, such as music, art and even TV.

Geography

- This half term Year 8 have been looking at the topic of Globalisation, which has covered how globalisation affects places like Poynton, what are TNCs and what do they do, and what are the advantages and disadvantages of the world being increasingly interconnected?
- After half term, Year 8 will be moving on to the topic of Global Superpowers.

History

- The students are finishing off the English Civil War topic and will be completing their assessment.
- After half term we are moving on to look at whether the British Empire was a force for good.

MFL

- Thank you to the Year 8 students for their hard work in the last half-term.
- Learning from home has been an opportunity for students to have more independence in their language learning and staff have been able to use different technologies and websites to enhance learning.
- Year 8 students have been learning about media in German and they have done a lot of work on opinions, word order and different tenses. They will start the topic of healthy living after the half-term holidays.

- In Spanish, students have been learning about how to describe their hobbies and after half term, they will move onto talking about food, drink and healthy living.

Textiles and Food Preparation and Nutrition

- During the academic year so far, students have been working in either Textiles or Food Preparation and Nutrition specialisms.
- After half term students will switch from either Textiles to Food Preparation and Nutrition or from Food Preparation and Nutrition to Textiles.
- Students are continuing with theory related tasks in both areas of the department. In Textiles students will be researching and designing a pencil case suitable for a customer of their choice. Within Food Preparation and Nutrition students are learning about a number of topics which include; hygiene, seasonality, energy, change for health, digestion, food labelling, world food and where food comes from.
- Miss Cory and Mrs Marsh have produced some practical step – by – step videos on the following YouTube link that students may wish to try out in their own time at home.
 - <https://youtube.com/channel/UC7tUuJ-ti7CtzojZy-IS2g>

Product Design

- The students have continued to impress us this term with their work on the different projects they have been given at home.
- The year 8's have had a project based around the Tokyo Olympics. They have learnt about branding, sustainability, and future technologies. We have had some beautiful work submitted so far.
- Next half term we will be carrying out a wide range of challenges which will further their understanding of the subject while offering them tasks which get them away from their screens!

Physical Education

- It is so important that students take time to complete the PE lessons that have been put on their Google Classrooms and that they do some physical activity due to their extended time being in front of a screen completing live lessons. This is really beneficial to their physical, mental and emotional well-being.
- We have completed live-lessons in PE which were a HIIT style fitness lesson. There was excellent attendance from Year 8 and 9 students with approx. 68% of all students joining the live lesson. We will be doing more live lessons and pre-recorded lessons for PE as we want to encourage students being active and also learning in PE.
- We use the MiMove app which is a fantastic app for students to log the activity they have completed either as a PE lesson or activity they have done outside of school. It can be anything from a dog walk, to a fitness class, to a netball match. This data can be seen by us as PE teachers and in school. Our Year 8 and 9 students have logged over a massive 920 hours of exercise between 4th Jan – 8th Feb 2021 (this is over 38 days of activity)!!! Amazing!
- WELL DONE, this is fantastic! If you haven't managed to access MiMove yet, please let your PE teacher know via Google Classrooms so we can help you if you are struggling with how to do this.

Art and Design

- Students have been exploring and learning about patterns and tessellations this half term. They looked at Mandalas and produced a Google Slides research file on these and constructed their own Mandala from objects found around the house or garden.

- The types of tessellations covered have been translations, reflections and rotational. These have mainly been produced using templates for the drawing of the tessellation pattern.
- Reminder to check out our Instagram account (Poynton_art) to see the fantastic artworks being produced by students for the 'Patterns' project.
- The groups are developing good working habits and most are uploading photographs of their work by 4pm on the day of the lesson.
- Please can we ask that students upload pictures of their work and then teachers can discuss it and highlight what is working well and areas to improve upon.

Music

- The Music department have been very determined to provide academically challenging Music lessons to all students during this unusual world we currently live in. As a heavily practical based subject, we have had to adapt all lessons.
- Before the second lockdown students were studying “The Elements of Music” with, amongst other tasks, a more advanced focus on performing rhythm with lots of multi-coloured Ikea cups (occasionally flying around the classroom), body percussion and the odd dance routine!
- We set them the challenge of all students recognising rhythm aurally and notating it down on to paper. They rose to the challenge and we were all very impressed with their efforts and progress.
- This term we focussed on developing their listening skills, listening to some unfamiliar music (and some pop!) in a format that is very similar to GCSE Music.
- Again, we have been so impressed with how the students have adapted to this new listening structure so much, that we have now started to include GCSE keywords in KS3! We would like to say how proud we all are of our young classroom musicians and hope that they enjoy a rest from their screens next week.
- With that in mind, in collaboration with teachers and music educators across the country, our pupils have received an exciting opportunity to watch one of the world’s best orchestras from the comfort of their own home. Initially this would have cost the school £125 but The Love Music Trust, who we regularly work with, have very kindly paid for our school to view the full concert.
- If you are interested in watching this over the holiday, please email: cwestern@phs.cheshire.sch.uk
- The concert provides a unique resource for pupils studying KS3, GCSE and A-level music. It aims to engage as many students as possible!
- The concert features:
 - The Development of the orchestra from the Renaissance to the present day
 - On screen analysis of some of the key works (GCSE and A Level)
 - Insights into the role of the conductor and the musical journeys of the two RNCM student soloists
 - Enjoy as a complete concert, or in bite-sized ‘chapters’ to enable learning in separate lessons and may be watched as a whole, or in ‘chapters’ as many times as you like within the 30 day timescale.

Computing

- The last half term has been really busy and we have been really impressed with how the students have been working remotely. They have adapted brilliantly to the Computing Curriculum using the software at home.
- We have been coding in Scratch, Python and Small Basic and the students have responded fantastically all working on their different devices.
- Safer Internet day is on Tuesday 9th February 2021 and the theme is - **An Internet We Trust**: exploring reliability in the online world. In Computing lessons this week we will be doing some work on Fake

News and hopefully discovering some of the reasons why these stories are made and spread. We will be using the hashtag AnInternetWeTrust and encouraging them to get involved in a little competition.

- There are prizes and house points on offer for students in each year. Details are on their google classroom and we look forward to seeing all their work.

Drama

- Year 8 have been working on a range of Practical creative tasks. Some classes have been doing the Year 8 design challenge.
- After learning about different types of stages and interesting techniques designers use and the technology available, students picked a style and a story and set about creating their own designs in model boxes.
- There were some amazing entries because Year 8 are a creative lot. Well done to Sam, Sam, Caitlin, Gye, Kate and Ben for their winning entries and well done to everyone who entered.
- Other practical challenges have been creating sound effects and script writing.

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

Welfare

- Mrs Riley hosts a welfare drop in on the Year 8 page on Google Classroom every Tuesday between 3.15 – 3.45pm.
- This is a great opportunity to just drop in, have a chat or access any support from their welfare leader.
- If you would like a member of the Year Team to phone your child for a welfare check in, please get in touch.
- Please remind students to access the Year page on Google Classroom – there are helpful hints, ideas for looking after our mental health and wellbeing and general notices posted on the page from the Year Team.

Well done once again to all of our students on such an excellent half term in these strange and difficult circumstances. It really has been a pleasure seeing and hearing about all the brilliant things the students have achieved this half term, and I look forward to seeing this continued after the break. Have a restful half term.

Thank you for your continued support.

Emma Keaveney

Director of Learning to KS3

eke@phs.cheshire.sch.uk

Alison Riley

Welfare Leader for Years 8 and 9

ari@phs.cheshire.sch.uk