



Poynton High School
Year 10 Parent and Carer Bulletin – February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for all of your support during this busy, and dare I say it, 'strange' half term. Within this half terms bulletin, you will find subject specific information regarding what your young person has been working on and can expect from the half term ahead.

Google Classroom

Students have become really confident in using Google classroom during our time learning remotely, however if you are aware your young person is still struggling to navigate please do encourage them to check out the year page for 'hints and tips' for successful remote learning.

Mental wellbeing

This half term has been challenging to say the least, we are all really keen to get back in to school and return to 'normal', but until then it is important to acknowledge that students may find this period difficult and we are keen to provide support in ensuring that students are taking care of their mental wellbeing. We have introduced shorter lessons to allow periods of time throughout the day where young people are encouraged to take a break from their screen and move around. We have set challenges to encourage young people to try activities they wouldn't ordinarily and we are urging everyone to get outside and exercise as regularly as they can. We have a 'wellbeing' section on our year google classroom page that encourages everything from positive sleep patterns to sharing thoughts and feelings. Please encourage your young person to check it out!

Each Thursday from 3.15 to 3.45 the year team hold a 'drop in' clinic for year 10 on Google classroom that allows for students to talk about how they are getting on and seek support if they need it.

Maths

Year 10 have engaged really well with remote learning and we have been very impressed at their continued focus on their GCSE course. We have been unable to complete the planned assessment at the end of January due to remote learning but we have continued to monitor the progress of students through a variety of different ways. Students are asked regularly to submit photos of their work that they have completed in the lessons so we are able to see how well they have understood the work and if there are any misconceptions we need to address in the following lesson. Please encourage your student to make sure this is completed each lesson so that we are able to give them the most appropriate feedback when necessary.

One key website which students have been using in mathematics is [drfrostmaths.com](https://www.drfrostmaths.com). Each student has been given their log in details for this in lessons and it is being used for online assessments

during lessons. Students are also able to access this website in their own time to revise certain topics that they have not fully understood. Dr Frost has a number of videos and worksheets available to students with solutions so this will continue to be a good tool for students to use as revision. Students should also be fully engaged with century now. Century has been a vital tool for promoting independent learning in students and has continued to be a very useful revision and assessment tool throughout remote learning. Century uses artificial intelligence to personalise the programme of topics which appear in an individual students' pathway (the more they use it, the more it personalises to them). Please encourage your student to be using this website for their consolidation of topics and to further challenge themselves onto more difficult topics.

If students are unsure of how to log in to any of the websites mentioned here, please ask them to refer to their google classroom first, where there should be instructions and if they are still struggling to contact their classroom teacher.

We will still 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.

English

Literature

Year 10 have been working hard this half term in their Literature lessons studying three more of their Power and Conflict poems. They have also revisited An Inspector Calls to develop their understanding of key characters. We have been so impressed with how students have adapted to studying these texts remotely.

After half term, students will begin their study of Macbeth. Students should already be familiar with the plot of the play having completed home learning tasks on this before Christmas. Our study of the play at this point will be focused on key scenes, which will be provided in an online booklet.

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 completing 'A Study of Character', a fiction scheme looking at how writers develop complex characters. After half term, we will be exploring a non-fiction scheme about 'Interacting with our Environment', which focuses on Language Paper 2.

Year 10 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. Students can revisit tasks and resources assigned to them on Google Classroom to consolidate their learning.
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

Checklists of the lessons covered during this half term will be going out later this week onto Google Classroom. Students can use this to review the work they have covered over the last 6 weeks.

Please can students with revision guides bring them with them for their lessons.

Please remind students that if they are struggling with any of the work always let their teacher know so that they are aware and can support them.

Revision resources:

Century Tech - <https://www.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. Work may be assigned on here by their teachers but this is best used when students work through the nuggets in their pathway as part of their own revision. All students should now have their log in details.

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 students can use simulations to carry out practicals and watch videos. This is a fantastic resource to revise the important required practicals that the students need to know. The log in details are:

Website: www.focuselearning.co.uk

Username: student@poyntoncounty2681

Password: qp3bczmr

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>

Religious Studies

Students are currently coming to the end of a topic studying the role of the Church in the local and wider community. They have been learning about how Christian's work as street pastors, support local foodbank projects and offer charitable support through the work of international charities such as Christian Aid and Tearfund. At the end of this topic students will be completing an end of unit assessment which will be submitted and marked via Google Classrooms. This will allow their RS teacher to give them precise and personal feedback on their knowledge and understanding of the course.

After February half term, students will begin a topic in the Thematic part of the course titled Relationships and Families. This topic allows for an exploration of Buddhist, Christian and secular responses to issues of sexuality, marriage, relationships, divorce and discrimination.

History

Year 10 have impressed their teachers since Christmas with how enthusiastically they begun the History of Medicine course. Students should continue to access live lessons with the same positivity and try their best to complete all home learning tasks (especially examination questions) by the deadlines set. These tasks are incredibly important in developing their extended writing skills and examination technique.

Revision guides have now arrived for all four History modules. Students will receive these when they return to school. In the meantime, the Oak National Academy website has some brilliant online lessons on the Medicine module if students feel the need to cement their knowledge further.

Geography

Students are working through the first half of the Physical Landscapes of the UK unit of work (River Landscapes of the UK). The work for this unit is being completed in a booklet that was given to students before Christmas. The booklet is also available on Google Classroom. After half term students will move on to the second half of this unit which will be looking at Coastal Landscapes of the UK.

Product Design

Students have been making the most of their time at home and impressing us with their progress in such a difficult situation.

Students have been working very efficiently in the completion on the theory side of the course with Miss Corry. This is going to be so beneficial on our return to school with most of the theory for the course complete. I do ask that all students please complete all the tasks given to them as there are a couple of gaps. On the return to school this knowledge will be tested so this is each students' responsibility to ensure they have built up all the knowledge taught in these sessions.

With Mrs Burdett, the students are in the process of completing the Upcycling Challenge. This has been so exciting from my point of view as the student's designs are so varied and interesting. The students are making their projects at the moment and I am really looking forward to seeing the final products and I hope you are too. The students have been told that they MUST NOT use any tools which could cause any sort of injury, no matter how confident they are. They have until the next lesson to fit in their hour of making, this gives them the opportunity to work with someone else and the adult carrying out these more hazardous tasks for them.

It will be very beneficial for your child to own a GCSE D&T revision guide. The Edexcel revision guide we recommend is by Hodder Education and is a 'My Revision Notes' workbook, which means there are many sample exam style questions throughout the guide, therefore progressing your child's exam technique while consolidating the knowledge they have learnt in lessons.

Here is a link to Amazon where at present this book has been reduced from £10.50 to just £4.99 while stocks last.

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[My Revision Notes: Pearson Edexcel GCSE \(9-1\) Design and Technology: Amazon.co.uk: Fawcett, Ian, Knight, Andy, Howells, Jacqui, Hills-Taylor, David: 9781510480506: Books](#)

Food Preparation and Nutrition

This term students have continued to work through theory topics including, factors influencing food choice, carbon footprint, fats, carbohydrates, major diet related health issues and food intolerances. Students should continue to revisit these topics and can use a number of different methods to suit their learning to do so. We would suggest using class notes and revision guides to aid them with revision tasks. Another helpful resource students' could use are past papers. These can be found at – <https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/past-paper-finder/>

Suitable practical skilled recipes have been added fortnightly to Google Classroom for students to complete at home in their own time. Miss Cory and Mrs Marsh have also produced some 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>

If students wish to adapt these dishes, they can 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 2 - Energy, materials, systems and devices. Within this topic students will study, energy generation, energy storage, modern materials, smart materials, composite materials and technical textiles, systems approach to designing, electronic systems, mechanical devices.

It is important for students to continue to study these topics at home through revision. This could be in the form of, 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.

Students have continued to work on their interactive toy portfolio work at home. It is important that students keep up to date and 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.

We are aware that students will be missing the practical element of this course. Therefore, Mrs Browning has planned for a practical activity to be delivered to your home addresses after half term. Instructions and equipment will be provided. We hope this will brighten your spirits as we are aware it isn't ideal being at a computer screen for the majority of the day.

Photography

Mini People Project is underway with students starting to produce some really interesting photographic shoots with their props and story lines. This will be developed further with close reference to Slinkachu and other photographers.

Art & Design

The groups are independently investigating artists and their working methods and will soon commence on combining their research into final piece ideas.

Reminder to check out our Instagram account (Poynton_art) to see the fantastic artworks being produced by our 'Artists & Photographers of the Month.'

Music

The Music Department have been given free access to The Halle Set Works Concert 2021 aimed at GCSE and A Level students.

For both music groups it covers:

- The Development of the orchestra from the Renaissance to the present day
- Concert repertoire taken from the GCSE, AS and A'Level music syllabuses of the AQA exam board
- On screen analysis of some of the key works
- Insights into the role of the conductor and the musical journeys of the two RNCM student soloists
- You can 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.

The Halle perform your set Study in Chapter 2 - The Classical Era - Mozart, Clarinet Concerto in A III Rondo, which we will be studying later throughout the course.

This is a wonderful way to listen and see a world class orchestra performing your exam content.

I will post the link in your Google Classroom over the next few days. You have 30 days to access it.

Business Studies

During their remote learning lessons, Y10 have been looking at Human Resources. They have been learning about company structures, recruitment, leadership, training and motivation. Any discussions you could have with your child about your workplace would add context and application to their understanding. They have looked at interviews and could support their learning with episodes of The Apprentice on iPlayer and Undercover Boss on 4oD.

CNat Enterprise & Marketing

Students have been focussed on their assignments for R065, conducting market research and generating their ideas for their pizza or hat. They should have identified a selling price using their pricing strategies, worked out their fixed and variable costs and calculated their breakeven point. If you could chat to your child about their final design and their pricing decisions that would be great.

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 working on their projects at home. We have focused largely on Pre-Production and the students have continued to engage enthusiastically.

I look forward to getting back into the building and then creating these digital products on the software in school.

Year 10 are designing a Graphic for a retro vinyl Album cover and they will then produce this using Adobe Photoshop.

Careers Update



We hope that our Year 10 and 11 students have been enjoying the series of virtual careers activities provided in partnership with The Macclesfield Pledge. So far this school year these have included a major Careers Expo in October and subsequent deeper Insight Events focusing on the broad range of careers in digital and the expanding area of careers in construction. The day in the life videos from the wide range of employers that formed the starting point of the Careers Expo are available to watch again at any time by going to <https://learnliveuk.com/macclesfield-pledge-expo/>

Coming up next term will be further events:

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| 24/2 and 3/3 | Self Employed Bootcamp and Be Your Own Boss – everything a young budding entrepreneur needs to know about starting their own business. |
| 10/3 | Careers in Business Services |
| 22/4 | Careers in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) and Logistics |
| 27/4 | National Health Service – careers in health and social care |
| 19/5 | Adult Social Care careers |

We will keep you informed of the links needed to attend each event as and when they become available to us and hope that our young people will make the most of these excellent resources to assist with their future careers planning.

Thank you to all of you at home for 'sticking with it' during this period of remote learning, we know that this is not an easy time but as always, we have been blown away by the hard work and resilience of not only our young people but parents and carers too.

We hope that you are able to rest and recharge your batteries over this February half term and we look forward to welcoming you back in to lessons on Monday 22nd February.

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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