



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

Dear Parents and Carers,

Year 10 have adapted the most fantastic attitude towards their learning and their return to school this half term, we are incredibly proud of each and every one of our young people.

Each half term I send out our year group bulletin, inside your will find important information about what is coming up after the Easter break for our students and includes strategies suggested by subject tutors to ensure students achieve their maximum potential.

Maths

Year 10 engaged well with remote learning over the last few months and we have been pleased to have them back in our classrooms, where they have continued to focus on their GCSE course. Students will be sitting formal end of year assessments next term; further information will follow on this.

After Easter, we will launch the PiXL Maths App with year 10. This is an app they can download on their phones. They can complete different tasks; focusing on specific topics or target grades. The more the app is used, the more it personalises to the individual student and will continue to develop an up to date list of topics for them. This will rate them red, amber or green on topics they have attempted so students can clearly see where they need to focus their revision time.

One key website which students have been using in mathematics is drfrostmaths.com. Each student has been given their log in details for this in lessons and it is was used for online assessments during the period of remote learning. 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 <https://www.century.tech/> now. Century has been a vital tool for promoting independent learning in students. 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 are instructions, if they are still struggling with this then they should to contact their classroom teacher.

English

Literature

In Literature, Year 10 have been studying Macbeth. By Easter, we will have covered the majority of the play, and students will be preparing for an essay when we return after the break. We will be sharing a link on Google Classroom so students can watch a recent adaptation of the play by The Globe Theatre.

Next half term, students will return to 'Power and Conflict' poetry as well as continuing to study themes in Macbeth.

Language

This half term, Year 10 have been completing 'Travel and the Environment', a non-fiction scheme developing the skill of rhetoric. After Easter, we will be exploring a fiction scheme about 'Other Worlds', which focuses on Language Paper 1 by looking at extracts from dystopian and science fiction texts.

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

We have a number of resources available to students to help them with their learning. We would highly recommend that all students use the resources listed below to help revisit content covered this year and consolidate their learning.

Science 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. Students can use simulations to carry out practical lessons and watch videos. This is a fantastic resource to revise the important required practical lessons 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>

History

Year 10 historians are at slightly different stages, but will all be completing the modern period of the course in the first few weeks after Easter. They will then all move onto the World War One section when they will study how medicine changed due to circumstances on the Western Front between 1914 and 1918. To prepare, students might like to research key battles such as those which happened at Ypres, Cambrai, Arras and the Somme. Other topics of interest could include plastic surgery and blood transfusions. In the meantime, students should continue to ensure that they are engaging with lessons and homeworks fully, especially when exam question practice is set.

Religious Education

As we approach the end of the Spring term students will be coming to an end of an ethics part of their GCSE, Relationships and Families. They have been studying issues of human sexuality, different attitudes towards contraception, the nature and purpose of marriage and pre-marital and extra-marital sex. In addition, they have been learning about the nature of families, the roles of parents and gender discrimination. At the end of this topic an end of unit assessment will be completed by the students to allow their RS teacher to check their knowledge and understanding of the topics covered here. This will allow the teachers to give students precise and personal feedback as they progress through their GCSE.

After Easter, moving into the Summer term, students will begin a topic on Buddhism looking at the life of the Buddha and core beliefs of the Buddhist faith we see in the world today.

Product Design

Students are now back in the workshops and as well as progressing through their theory work, they are also completing their 'Disaster Challenge' where they are modelling their designs of a temporary house which could be erected quickly in the event of a disaster. Next we will be moving on to the 'Animal Fan' project where they will further their knowledge in electronics, learn techniques when

working with sheet metal and also create several wood joints to complete a USB driven fan...ready for the hot summer weather!

Since the new year, our year 10 Product Designers have been working on an Upcycling Project. I am very excited to announce that this is now running as a Cheshire East competition. All we need is a final photo of your child's finished upcycled product (which I have from most of them on Google Classroom, but some are still missing) and we can enter them in to the competition. Historically we have had numerous finalists and winners of this competition...hopefully we will have again this year!

The Great Big Upcycled Design Competition

Which school will create the best new and exciting object from something old and useless?

Submit photos of your amazing creations by the 2nd July to be in with a chance of winning the Great Big Cheshire East Upcycled Design Competition. See the pack for more details!

Food and Nutrition

Since returning to school we have focussed on the theory element of the course, ensuring that students understand the knowledge which has been taught over the lockdown period. We have mainly included macro/micro nutrients as well as understanding food science and cooking skills. After Easter, we will be starting weekly practical lessons. This will help students get up to speed with their practical skills. We will be focussing on particular skills such as a roux sauce, shaping meat, whisking foam, making pastry/dough. A list of practical lessons will be given to students with ingredients so that they can be prepared in advance.

Miss Corry 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

Textiles

Students applied themselves productively during the period of remote learning by focusing on the core technical theory as well as design and making principles.

The annual multinational Wool4School competition was recently completed. Students designed an outfit suitable for and eco-friendly commute. This design task has successfully prepared them for starting their NEA in June.

The delivery of Textiles kits has enabled students to develop and refine their practical skills whilst improving their manual dexterity and attention to detail.

Since returning to learning in school, students have been working hard on the manufacture of their interactive toy. This is a skill-based project that allows them to experiment with a wide range of different Textiles techniques and equipment.

After Easter students will develop their pattern cutting skills when making a simple garment from a commercial sewing pattern.

It is essential that all home learning is uploaded and evidenced on google classroom. Please remind students to bring their design folder and Textiles kit to all of Mrs Browning's coursework lessons.

Computer Science

Year 10 computer scientists have been looking at Computer Networks in terms of architecture and structure and the services that networks provide. A lot of this has taken place during the lockdown period and we have picked back up in our normal classroom environment. Since we have been back we have progressed in to looking at network threats and security and will continue to look at this after Easter as well as introducing some of the python programming.

iMedia

It has been good to be back in school and working on the computers. Since being back in school we have been getting used to using Photoshop and refreshing our skills. After half term we will be focusing on our Graphics Assignment and this is worth 25% of their final mark.

Students are going to be producing a Graphic for a vinyl LP cover and hopefully extending their knowledge of Photoshop in producing this Graphic. They will be learning all about appropriate file types for print and online versions and hopefully enjoying a half term focusing on their computer skills.

Physical Education

GCSE PE – We have completed all the content for the theory Paper 2 which will be assessed in the Year 10 mocks. Students have sat a full paper in lessons linked to all of Paper 2 content and feedback will be given in class. Over Easter, students will be given 3 pieces of work to complete and further revision will be put on Google Classroom. Students have been working really well in practical recently (Netball) and we hope to continue this after Easter.

CNAT Sport Studies – Students have been working on their Learning Objective 4 for the Media Unit. They have been looking at the different aspects in the relationship between the media and sport. The students will be handing this work in before Easter. After Easter students will be continuing with the Media Unit and working on Learning Objective 5. Students will also have practical lessons in Netball, Football and Basketball.

Year 10 Assessments

In order to maximise the amount of face to face teaching and learning students will have, we have made the decision to postpone the year 10 exams towards the end of the summer term. This will allow students to have a purposeful assessment which will feed in to, and support our assessment in year 11. Details regarding the year 10 examinations will be published in advance.

Transport to school

For the attention of Students using the School Buses

Please remind your young person that they **must be wearing their mask on the school bus**. If the school bus becomes stuck in traffic it is important that your young person stays on the bus, this is the safest place to be.

Walking and cycling to school

It is fantastic to see so many students walking and cycling to school. Please remind your young person to make sure they are thinking about other road users and their own safety on their journey in to school.

Uniform Code

As you will be aware we had adapted our school uniform policy to allow students to wear coats in classrooms as a result of students having no access to lockers and the cooler weather.

As we approach our summer term we are returning to our usual so uniform. Students should therefore not be returning to us after the Easter holiday wearing coats/hoodies/jumpers during the school day.

Our school blazer is an essential part of our uniform, students can wear a blazer and no jumper but must not wear a jumper in place of their blazer.

Details of our uniform policy can be found here:

<https://www.phs.cheshire.sch.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=1009&type=pdf>

Free school meals

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

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

Child and Adolescent Mental Health

Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust's (CWP) nationally recognised Child and Adolescent Mental Health website 'MyMind' has been refreshed and relaunched in time for this year's World Mental Health Day.

MyMind is a dedicated website for young people across Cheshire and Wirral experiencing mental health difficulties. With support from local young people from our Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), MyMind has now been given a modern makeover!

MyMind provides advice and guidance around the key topics identified as most important to young people and their families: how to cope with mental health challenges, how to get help and what to do in a crisis.

The site includes a host of interactive self-help resources for young people, parents/carers and anyone who works with young people around the topics of Mood, Lifestyle and Relationships, as well as details on local mental health services in your area.

Visit www.MyMind.org.uk

Equipment Reminder

- Due to the current circumstances, we are unable to lend equipment to the students this year.
- Students need to bring the following equipment to school with them every day:
 - Pens – blue or black
 - Red pen
 - Pencil
 - Ruler
 - Protractor
 - Pair of compasses
 - Calculator
 - Rubber
 - Reading book
 - Mask
- It would also be handy to have scissors and glue!

COVID-19 Health and Safety

- Our students have been brilliant at adapting to the new measures put in place to keep everyone in our school community safe this year. We are grateful to them for following these rules.
- It is essential that students wear a mask in the school buildings and when in any covered areas.
- Student Year group bubbles have been allocated toilets – these are the only toilets they can use. This is to keep year groups separate.
- The number of students allowed in the toilets at any time is clearly labelled on the door – please adhere to these restrictions.

Thank you for all of your hard work year 10, it has been wonderful to have you back in school. Have a lovely and restful holiday and we will look forward to welcoming you all back on Tuesday 20th April.

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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