



The TRUE Learning Partnership



Poynton High School and Performing Arts College

Head Teacher: Mr M Dean

Wednesday 30 March, 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to share with you a summary of the content for assessment that your child will complete in the half term following the Easter holiday. Students have already been given this information by their teachers through lessons and Google Classroom but I wanted to make sure that parents and carers were aware of this before the holiday to help you to support your child. There is further detail, including on the format of assessments, available on <https://www.phs.cheshire.sch.uk/year11assessmentinformation>

These assessments will be used as part of the range of evidence that the final grades will be based on this year. In each subject teachers have decided on the range of evidence that will be used for the final grade and these upcoming assessments will certainly be included for all students in a subject. In addition, the list of evidence for a subject may include Non-Exam Assessments, mock exams and other work that can provide a reliable basis for a grade. The same range of evidence will be used for the whole cohort of students in a subject to ensure fairness. No one assessment will determine the final grade but good preparation for these assessments will enable students to provide further evidence of their potential.

Students are already aware that these assessments will count towards their final grade and should use time at home and then in lessons after Easter to prepare for them. There is further study skills information, including videos, on <https://www.phs.cheshire.sch.uk/keystage4exams>. In addition, all the work that students complete in school with their teachers will be preparation for these assessments.

As I mentioned in my previous letter we recognise that this is not a 'normal year' and it is fair that we have significantly reduced the amount of revision that students need to do. Instead of revising the whole course as normal we have identified some key topics that will enable students to show what they are capable of.

Where students would receive access arrangements, such as coloured paper or extra time in exams, they will receive this in the assessments now. Our aim in completing these assessments in formal conditions in class is to ensure a process that is as fair as possible for all.

Yew Tree Lane, Poynton,
Stockport, Cheshire SK12 1PU

Tel: 01625 871811 Fax: 01625 874541
Email: info@phs.cheshire.sch.uk



It is important, therefore, that students are aware that although these are not formal exams in the hall we have the same expectations as in a normal year. I do not envisage any problems but students must be aware of the rules around malpractice. In a lesson assessment this could include breaking the rules of the assessment by having access to unauthorised materials, looking at another student's work, disrupting the assessment etc. In any work done at home such as NEA or other coursework in a subject students must follow the usual rules around plagiarism and must ensure that the work they submit is their own or is properly referenced if it is taken from another source. JCQ have also asked that we make clear that undue pressure put on teachers, by students seeking a certain grade, will count as malpractice. Further guidance about malpractice can be found at <https://www.phs.cheshire.sch.uk/year11assessmentinformation>

We recognise that some students may be unable to complete these assessments in school due to a period of self-isolation. Mrs Dempsey will write separately to clarify the arrangements for students in that position but they should not worry as they will be able to complete the assessment at home, following clear guidance. If a student is ill they will clearly not be able to sit the assessment and if necessary will catch up with the same or a replacement assessment at a later date.

Students will remain in school full time until the start of the Whit holiday. Between the 7 June and 18 June students will be in school on some days, alongside remote provision, and we will provide information about the precise programme after Easter. This is to support any catch up needed and to ensure students have been given their marks for the assessments. That programme will also support progression for the next stage in their education and enable us to mark them leaving school properly. After 18 June we will not expect students to be in school, although they may continue with the transition activities provided by our Sixth Form.

As I have mentioned previously I am proud of the work that students have done and the focus of all their teachers will be on supporting them to be their very best in the remaining assessments. We would encourage you to let the Year 11 team know if there is anything that we should be aware of that might impact on assessments so we can take that into account. If you have any other questions over Easter or after the holiday please send them to exam2021@phs.cheshire.sch.uk

I wish our students all the best of luck in the assessments in their remaining time in school.

Yours sincerely,

Matthew Dean

Matthew Dean
Headteacher