



**Poynton High School**  
**Year 10 Parent and Carer Bulletin – May 2021**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Well, what a half term this has been! Year 10 you have, as always, been a joy to work with. It has been fantastic to see you in your lessons and continuing to progress in all of your subjects.

As you know, each half term I send out our year group bulletin, inside your will find important information about what is coming up after the Whit break for our students and includes strategies suggested by subject tutors to ensure students achieve their maximum potential, particularly in the lead up to Year 10 examinations.

### **English**

#### **Literature**

In Literature this half term, Year 10 have finished their first study of Macbeth. We were very pleased with their approach to the essay exploring how far Macbeth is presented as a hero. This year group as a whole have responded well to this challenging text, and should be very proud of themselves!

We have also been looking at further poems from the 'Power and Conflict' cluster. The year 10 Literature exam will be an essay question on this aspect of the course. Students will need to revise the poems they have studied most recently, along with a selection of their choice from the poems studied earlier in the year. When we return after half term, our initial focus will be preparation for this specific exam.

#### **Language**

This half term, Year 10 have been exploring a fiction scheme about 'Other Worlds', which focuses on Language Paper 1 by looking at extracts from dystopian and science fiction texts. We have enjoyed studying the likes of Orwell, Bradbury and HG Wells, and students have also had the chance to develop their creative writing.

The year 10 Language exam will be Paper 1 Section A, the reading section. Students will have one unseen fiction extract to read, followed by 4 questions. When we return after the break students will be revising for these specific questions, however they can also revise at home by following the advice below.

English 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. Learn the vocabulary assigned to them in their pre-unit vocabulary audits.
3. Students can revisit tasks and resources assigned to them on Google Classroom to consolidate their learning.

4. Encourage students to ask as many questions as possible in and out of lessons to clarify anything they are unsure of.
5. Look out for revision tips on our Twitter page @PHS\_EngDept and revision videos on our YouTube channel, Poynton High School English.
6. Revision should start early! Encourage your young people to use Century Tech for independent revision for English Language and English Literature.

## **Maths**

Year 10 will be sitting their first experience of formal assessments after half term. This will consist of non-calculator and calculator papers. There will not be a revision list provided for the upcoming assessments; they will assess all topics ready for your GCSE; this will include topics covered throughout year 10.

In order to help your child best prepare for their upcoming examinations, we recommend the following:

- PiXL Maths App; this was launched with year 10 a couple of weeks ago and is a very useful revision tool. Students should be completing approximately 10 minutes revision per day on this app. They can choose specific topics to revise or can focus on the grade they are hoping for. At this stage in key stage 4, we recommend them focusing on one or two grades below the grade they wish to achieve at the end of key stage 4.
- Practice papers; students have been given the link to a number of practice papers (and the markschemes) on google classroom. The best way to attempt these would be to complete the paper under exam conditions (each paper is 1 hour 30 minutes long). Students can then use the markschemes to go through and see how they have done. This can then form what topics they revise on the PiXL Maths App.
- We have provided students with a number of other useful websites they can use on google classroom, and this will continue to be updated.

## **Science**

Y10 Bulletin - Science

Y10 Exams

Exams will take place the week commencing 21st June 2021. Students will each sit 3 papers (one for Biology, Chemistry and Physics).

Science Revision resources:

We have a number of resources and set work to help students prepare fully for these exams. These include:

#### Chunked revision

Students have been set weekly 'chunked' revision to complete for Biology, Chemistry and Physics. This includes completing designated past paper question(s) each week to help students become more confident answering exam questions and improve their examination technique.

Century Tech - <https://www.century.tech/>

To mirror the work set as chunked revision, students have also been set specific weekly tasks to complete on Century. 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. All students should 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's and watch videos. This is a fantastic resource to revise the important required practical's that the students need to know. The log in details are:

Website: [www.focuselearning.co.uk](http://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 have been studying a Buddhism topic learning about the life of the Buddha and the key teachings found within The Four Noble Truths. They were shortly be moving onto look at ethical issues of Human Rights and Social Justice.

In preparation for the forthcoming RS exam in June students could start to make revision materials on the following 2 topics:

Christianity – key beliefs, Christ and salvation (yellow exercise book)

Crime and punishment (purple exercise book)

Various revision methods could include highlighting key concepts in their book, chunking notes, cue cards and mind mapping.

After half term all staff will deliver a revision lesson in school to ensure that students are fully aware of what they need to revise, exam questions layout etc.

## **History**

The next half term is an important half term for Year 10 students in History, students will complete the History of Medicine Unit and will be beginning their next unit on the Reigns of Richard and John. Students will also complete their Year 10 summer exam, this will be focused on the Vietnam War as taught in the USA unit. Students should be beginning their Vietnam revision over half term.

## **Geography**

The Year 10 Geography assessment will cover the Hazards and Physical Landscapes of the UK (Rivers and Coasts) units of work, (10CGg1's assessment will cover Hazards and Urban Environments). Students should use their exercise books alongside their revision guides to help with revision. Revision checklists will be posted on Google Classroom.

## **MFL**

Y10 have really impressed this last term with their attitude to their learning – well done!

The end of year exams will take place after half term in all subjects. In French and German there will be two exams covering the skills of Listening, Reading and Writing. We will not be assessing Speaking this year with social distancing restrictions still in place but we are hoping to give students a practice speaking exam before their mock exams in December.

The exams will cover the following topics:

Y10 French:

- Me, my family, friends and relationships
- Free time, hobbies and technology
- Festivals and special occasions
- Town and local area
- Holidays, travel and tourism

Y10 German:

- My studies and life at school
- Free time, hobbies and festivals
- Me, my family, friends and relationships
- Town and local area; technology
- Holidays, travel and tourism

The exams will be in the following format:

Assessment 1:

A mixed-skill, mixed-tier listening and reading paper to be completed in class during the week beginning 14th June. Students will complete this exam in class under assessment conditions.

Assessment 2:

Students will be given either a Foundation tier (grades 1-5) or Higher tier (grades 4-9) writing paper. This does not necessarily reflect the tier they will ultimately be entered for in their final GCSE exams.

The format of these exams is as follows:

Foundation writing exam:

- Q1 – four sentences to describe a photo
- Q2 – 40 word writing task
- Q3 – 5 sentences to translate into French/German
- Q4 – 90 word extended writing task

Higher writing exam:

- Q1 – 90 word writing task
- Q2 – 150 word extended writing task
- The translation question has been removed to fit this exam into 1 hour

Parents' guide to MFL at PHS

We have added a document to the MFL section of the school website to help parents in supporting your child in their MFL revision – even if you don't speak a word of French or German yourself!

<https://www.phs.cheshire.sch.uk/mfl>

Useful websites:

Some classes have used [www.memrise.com](http://www.memrise.com), [www.quizlet.com](http://www.quizlet.com) or [www.pearsonactivelearn.com](http://www.pearsonactivelearn.com) in their language lesson in the computer room. These are great websites to use at home too. Any student can join by using their google account and individual teachers have set classes and home learning tasks.

Username and passwords for [www.pearsonactivelearn.com](http://www.pearsonactivelearn.com) have been given out and students should have written their usernames and passwords for the different websites on the first page of their vocab booklets. If your child hasn't had access to this website, ask them to check with their teachers on Google Classroom.

Keep following us on Twitter too:

Mr Farrell- @MonsieurFarrell

French Department - @PH\_rench

German Department - @PHS\_GERMAN

Spanish Department@PHS\_Spanish

## Product Design

This term the students are thoroughly enjoying their manufacturing time in the workshop. They are all fully engaged in the manufacture of their 'Animal Fan'. This project started with the designing phase, including some maths (which will consist of 15% of their total course content and will form part of their final examination). They are now well on with their making. They have created several wood joints for the frame, they have made the templates for their Aluminium body and started to cut these out using a range of equipment, and they have soldered and tested their circuit which has a USB lead to give power to the fan. All students are incredibly motivated and have told me they are enjoying this project!

The theory is continuing with Miss Corry, they are now racing through the units and focussing particularly on the 'Timbers' section. This will be the focus of their mock exam next month, and this topic will also contribute to 60% of their final examination next summer.

When we return from half term we will have the 'contexts' from Edexcel and will be starting the work on our NEA, this is worth 50% of the final GCSE Product Design grade. It is incredibly important that all students know how important this project is from the start. The students will each need to choose the context they wish to focus on and we will be starting to investigate potential problems

related to this in the PC room after half term. I will send home deadlines for this very soon, so you are aware of when work is due throughout the rest of this course.

## **Textiles**

Students have focused this half term on the development of their practical skills when manufacturing their educational interactive child's toy. This project offers students the opportunity to experiment with a wide range of technical skills, tools and machinery.

The introduction of our afterschool Textiles Skills club has provided additional time for pupils to refine the construction and embellishment of their product. All pupils are welcome to attend. The Club runs from 15:00-16:00 on Monday afternoons (unless informed otherwise).

In addition to the educational interactive child's toy, students have begun their skirt/shorts project. For most students, this is their first experience using a commercial sewing pattern. This project will give students greater understanding of pattern cutting, design alteration/modification and quality assurance. These skills will aid the manufacture of a well finished garment and increase student confidence and independence throughout the design and manufacture of their non-examined assessment (NEA).

During theory lessons students are focusing on core technical, specialist and design and making principles in preparation for their end of year Textiles exam that will take place on Tuesday 22nd June. All students have been given a list of revision topics. Alongside their theory lessons they should be using their blue revision guide and white work book to practice exam style questions.

Students will begin the research and design element of their NEA when they return after half term. Please continue to encourage students to evidence and upload home learning to google classroom as well as bringing hard copies to class. Students should bring their design folder, and Textiles kit to all of Mrs Browning's coursework lessons.

## **Food, Preparation and Nutrition**

Since returning after lockdown we have focussed on theory and began to start the practical element of the course.

Theory: Students have been continuing to learn key elements of the specification and completing mini assessments. These assessments will be helpful to students to put their theory into practice, understand questioning and for preparation before their end of year exam.

Practical: Students have been doing one practical each week and this will continue for the rest of the academic year. Students so far have made meatballs, swiss roll & lasagne. In the coming weeks, the dishes that students will be making are; Cornish pasties (both pastry and filling), curry, pasta (both pasta dough and sauce) & a range of other dishes where we will be giving students the choice on what they would like to make with a theme e.g. vegetarian. This will then give students the opportunity to gain further skills before beginning their Non-Exam Assessment in Year 11.

## **Art & Design**

This term in Art & Design lessons students have designed ideas in response to the Natural Forms project. Students have now chosen their favourite design and are in the process of creating their final pieces for the project. The final piece is informed by the artist research that students have

undertaken since the start of the course, where each element of the design is created using a different medium.

These mediums have been previously explored in response to their artist research pages and students now have the opportunity to choose their strongest skills to showcase in their final outcome. All students have combined different elements to inform their composition designs for their final piece. The year 10 final pieces will be completed soon and the students will begin the next project on Portraiture.

## **Photography**

The Yr10 Photographers have been looking at the concept of mini people in a large world. They have looked at professional photographers who explore this theme, Slinkachu and Andrew Whyte. Students were provided with their own mini people and have experimented with composition and lighting in producing a series of photoshoots. These have then been explained in detail in their project portfolio. All portfolio work is completed on Google Drive so that it can be accessed on the internet from home and in school. This enables students to work on their portfolios outside of school. They will soon start the next coursework project.

## **CNAT Enterprise and Marketing**

The exam the students were supposed to sit this summer has been replaced with a Teacher Assessed Grade. This means that in the Autumn Term of Year 11, students will be given a Teacher Assessed Grade for both the R064 Examination (worth 50%) and the R065 Design coursework (worth 25%) (This is based on the work on Pizzas/Hats). As the majority of this coursework is complete, this mark will come from the work students have already produced. In order to get accurate TAGs for the exam, this mark will mainly come from the examination completed during the Y10 examination period at the end of June, as well as smaller assessments done in class so far. Students have been given revision booklets and should use these to prepare for the exam as this TAG 50% of their final GCSE grade.

Revision guides can be purchased on Amazon [https://www.amazon.co.uk/Revision-Notes-Cambridge-Enterprise-Marketing/dp/1510471715/ref=sr\\_1\\_3dchild=1&keywords=enterprise+and+marketing&qid=1621852939&s=books&sr=1-3](https://www.amazon.co.uk/Revision-Notes-Cambridge-Enterprise-Marketing/dp/1510471715/ref=sr_1_3dchild=1&keywords=enterprise+and+marketing&qid=1621852939&s=books&sr=1-3)

## **Business Studies**

Students are now working to prepare for their Year 10 exam which will be on Units 1, 3, 4 and 6. Students should use Seneca and BBC Bitesize (GCSE Business, AQA) and their revision guides to prepare for these examinations. Revision guides can be purchased on Amazon [https://www.amazon.co.uk/GCSE-Business-Complete-Revision-Practice/dp/1782946918/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?dchild=1&keywords=gcse+business+revision+guide&qid=1621852988&s=books&sr=1-1](https://www.amazon.co.uk/GCSE-Business-Complete-Revision-Practice/dp/1782946918/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=gcse+business+revision+guide&qid=1621852988&s=books&sr=1-1)

## **Computing**

This Term and continuing into next, students in Computer Science have been studying Python programming. We have been looking at the initial main constructs of Sequencing, Selection and Iteration before moving to looking at more advance concepts after half-term in terms of data structures and file handling. Students can continue access content from home using the Repl-it website so can continue to make progress during the half-term break!

## **iMedia**

In iMedia the students have been continuing with their RO82 graphics unit where they have been making a Vinyl LP cover using Adobe Photoshop for a specific client brief. This unit will go towards their final grade. It is hoped that all students will complete this before the end of June.

## **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 are now well in to our summer term we are returning to our usual so uniform. Students should therefore not be returning to us after the Whit 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](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](http://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.

### **Year 10 summer assessments**

Students have received details of their year 10 examinations in school and have been working on developing their revision skills. Please check out the resources available:

<https://www.phs.cheshire.sch.uk/keystage4exams>

Thank you for all of your hard work year 10, it has been wonderful to have you back in school and see you continuing to progress in your subjects. Have a lovely and restful holiday and we will look forward to welcoming you all back on Monday 7th June.

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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