



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

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to thank you for your understanding and support this half term, and in fact for the past academic year. It has undoubtedly been a challenging time for yourselves, students and our staff. The saying 'it takes a village...' has never felt truer, without our school community working together we would not have made it through so successfully.

In this half term's bulletin, you will find notices from each subject outlining the work students have completed recently and what to expect when they return to us in September as Year 11 students. When the time arrives, I hope you all have a lovely, restful and safe summer break!

Maths

Now that students have completed their first experience of a maths mock, they should be more aware of their own strengths and the topics that the students need to improve upon. By the end of the summer term we will have gone through the papers that the students completed, this will enable the students to be aware of their strengths and what their targets are for improvement. PiXL is a highly useful tool when it comes to working on targets. It would be ideal to continue to study a little bit of maths each day where possible to improve understanding of key topics.

If you are unsure what the weaknesses are, on the PiXL maths app you can go to 'Take a test' – 'my summary PLC report'. This gives each student a list of all the topics they need to study at GCSE level and what they have already shown their ability level to be on this topic. The more students use PiXL, the more it personalises to the student. This will prove to be valuable feedback to both the students and class teachers.

Students will be sitting their first full maths mock exam before October half term. This will consist of 1 non-calculator paper and 2 calculator papers; as will their real exam in the summer 2022. To be fully prepared for this mock, students should work on their weaknesses over the summer and aim to complete at least one practice paper over the holidays. The link to the past papers will continue to be updated with more practice papers over the holidays.

For any students who have extra maths tuition outside of Poynton High School, please could you discuss with the tutor the importance of not working through any secure materials (these are papers which are not readily available to students online). This limits the material we have to use for exams. It also puts students at a disadvantage when it comes to their full GCSE as they will never have experienced an exam where they have not been prepped for those exact questions. Part of the mock experience is to highlight where exam technique can be improved and to fully prepare students for the real GCSE in the summer. Exam preparation will also be a focus in lessons during year 11.

We have been so impressed with the resilience of our Year 10 students this year in their approach to GCSE English Language and Literature. They have explored a challenging Shakespeare text; got to grips with a whole raft of canonical poetry; critiqued issues of class and social change through drama; and honed their skills in rhetoric and creative writing. We have packed a lot into this year, and Year 10 have been an excellent cohort. Well done to you all!

English Literature

Year 10 have now covered almost all of their texts for Literature. We are yet to study 'Jekyll and Hyde', which is scheduled for the Spring term in 2022.

Over the Summer, we expect students to reread all of their texts; 'An Inspector Calls', 'Macbeth' and the poems in the Power & Conflict cluster.

English Language

In Language, we have covered all aspects of the two exam papers, and will be building on this understanding in Year 11.

Over the Summer, we expect students to keep up with their own fiction and non – fiction reading, as this will have an immense impact on their ability to approach unseen texts.

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.

Science

In year 10 all students have now completed or have almost completed the content for Paper 1 which was assessed in the Year 10 exams. Students should be proud of the work they put in to preparing for this.

This half term students have been starting work on the content for Paper 2 and they will be assessed on this in the first half term.

In Science students will have the opportunity to carry out several mock assessments, these are normally held in the autumn and spring term and will assess both Paper 1 and Paper 2 content.

The summer break is an opportunity for students to revisit topics that were identified as a concern in their exams. They can use their revision guide or the websites below to go over the work which will also help them in the December mocks.

Useful revision resources:

BBC Bitesize revision website: this has been updated for the new GCSE specification and is an excellent revision resource. Link below:

BBC Bitesize for Double (Combined Science) students:

<https://www.bbc.com/education/examspecs/z8r997h>

BBC Bitesize for Triple (Separate Sciences)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zpgcbk7> (Biology)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/z8xtmnb> (Chemistry)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zsc9rdm> (Physics)

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 <https://www.cgpbooks.co.uk/secondary-books/gcse/science/combined-science/sahr45-grade-9-1-gcse-combined-science-aqa-revi>

Foundation tier : <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 worked incredibly hard this year in RS. Through difficult circumstances they have remained focused and continued to apply themselves both in school lessons and online activities. The recent mock exams were an opportunity for students to show off their skills, with many students achieving very pleasing grades.

Over the summer holidays, we do not ask students to complete any work as such, but if they would like to start planning for revision, they could use resources on the BBC GCSE Bitesize website:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zjgx47h>

Once in Year 11 we will be moving onto further Buddhism studies, looking at key beliefs about the faith, the afterlife and human actions.

History

Students have worked hard this term completing the History of Medicine unit and their summer exam on the USA. All Year 10 students have begun the fascinating topic of the Reigns of Richard and John which they will continue into Year 11, and have begun this unit with enthusiasm.

History teachers will be setting revision for the History of Medicine unit over the summer, this is so students can sit a Medicine assessment in the first 3 weeks of September. Students need to check google classroom over the summer and ensure that their revision is completed for their first history lesson back.

We wish all our GCSE students and restful, safe and happy summer.

Textiles

Students have focused this half term on the development of their practical skills when manufacturing their skirt/shorts. This project provides students with 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).

Students have begun the research phase of their NEA. Each student has a selected one of the contexts provided by the exam board. This forms the starting point of their research, design and manufacture activity.

Students have achieved encouraging grades in their end of year Textiles exam. Moving forward, they will continue to study the remaining core, specialist and design and making specification topics.

Please continue to encourage students to evidence and upload all home learning to google classroom as well as bring hard copies to class. Students should bring their design folder, and Textiles kit to all of Mrs Browning's coursework lessons.

We aim to continue our afterschool Textiles Skills Club when we return in September. This additional time will allow pupils to make further progress and improvements to their NEA.

Food, Preparation and Nutrition

Year 10 students studying Food, Preparation and Nutrition have been fantastic this year. The attendance over all when learning online was brilliant and this has shown in your recent mock exams. As we have missed out on so much practical this year, we are going to make a real focus on making sure that students feel confident and prepared for next year.

When students return back in Year 11, we will start to prepare for their Non-Exam Assessment. This is 50% of students GCSE which includes making 2 dishes as part of their exam as well as a written element. We do not yet have the task – this will be confirmed next term.

It would be fantastic if over the Summer holiday, students practiced a range of dishes with a range of skills e.g. making pasta from scratch, bread dough, pastry, refining chopping skills, presentation skills.

We are looking forward to welcoming you into Year 11 and getting stuck in to the practical element of the course.

Product Design

The NEA has begun! The students have all made a start on their portfolio, and a context has been chosen from the 3 Edexcel themes of 'Supporting People', 'Town Centres' or 'Theme Parks'. The students have started the investigation in to their chosen context to then decide on a problem they will solve.

Initially I contacted you to share our deadlines for next year. As this half term has been so disjointed with students self-isolating, a decision has been made to change these as they are now far too

ambitious and would push the students in to handing in work that would not show their true potential. In September I will re-issue these deadlines to you.

However, the students will have summer work to complete. In September they will need to have submitted 3 sections:

1. An investigation in to their context, leading to a problem they would like to focus on and solve throughout this project. (1 slide)
2. Existing Products – students are to analyse 3 existing products which link to their chosen problem to solve, using the ACCESS FM acronym to help them (Aesthetics, Customer, Cost, Environment or Ergonomics, Sustainability, Size, Function, Materials) (2 slides)
3. Use the questionnaire which was written in class (around 10 questions) and ask their chosen user group to answer this. These answers will then need analysing and a summary written to state what they have found out their customers want from the end product. (1 slide)

All support documents for this work are on Google Classroom, which is set up as an assignment for them to submit their work to.

Lastly, we have a revision guide which is really beneficial for our Product Design students. This is a really easy to use pocket sized revision book, covering all theory needed for their examination which is worth 50% of their final GCSE grade. This revision guide is only £4.99 on Amazon with free delivery but you can also buy used ones for less. It is by 'Daydream Education' and is titled 'GCSE Design & Technology | Pocket Posters: The Pocket-Sized GCSE Design & Technology Revision Guide'. If your child is Pupil Premium, we will buy this for you, so please do not purchase one.

Computing

In this final term year 10 Computer Science students have continued with Python programming and preparation for the mocks examinations that have now all completed.

Going forward students should use their time in the summer to firstly relax, but try to continue developing their skills in Python- (using Repl-it or in Python itself). There are loads of tutorials and content available- but some particular student friendly content on the Oak National Academy.

On a personal note I would just like to say a big thank-you, for the student's perseverance over the course of this year- you are a great group of students and I wish you all the best as you make the journey into year 11.

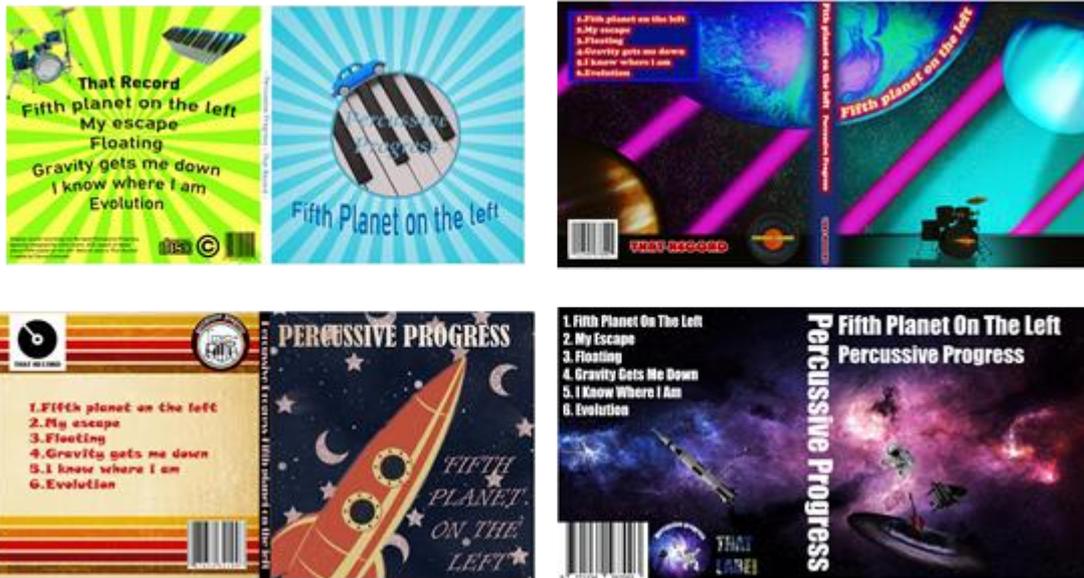
iMedia

Students are currently working on and finishing their Graphics unit in iMedia

They have been producing a Graphic for a Retro Album Cover. We have some very talented students in iMedia this year who are producing some excellent work.

They have become very skilled in both Photoshop and illustrator. They have produced a range of graphics for both print and online purposes.

Some of the example work produced by Year 10 iMedia students is shown below:



GCSE Business

Students have ended the year with an enterprise project, giving them chance to demonstrate their understanding of the concepts they have studied this year. It has been fantastic to see students achieving excellent grades in their end of year exam, showing that their hard work both in school and during remote learning has really paid off. For those students who didn't do as well as they had hoped, we'd recommend using Seneca and Bitesize over the summer to find out where they have gaps in their knowledge. Remember, Business is all around us and you should use the list of TV programmes and films to develop your understanding further over the summer.

CNAT Enterprise and Marketing

Students have worked hard right to the end of the year to ensure they have evidence to support grading decisions for both R064 (exam) and R065 (coursework). These units are now complete and the standard of work produced has been excellent. Next year, we will focus our efforts on R066 and build up to the business pitches. Watching episodes of Dragon's Den over the summer would be excellent preparation! This final piece of coursework is worth 25% of the overall grade so provides a great opportunity to those looking to boost their grade.

I look forward to welcoming students back in September and introducing them to the world of Animation.

GCSE PE

To say this year has been a crazy one is an understatement and I'm extremely proud of my Yr10 GCSE PE group. They have managed to undergo a practical course during covid times with the most energy, effort, maturity and commitment. The progression through the course has been impressive and we are working through paper 1 material ready to continue to work hard in September.

Everyone completed the mock in June which was a full paper 2 so students have experienced a full exam in exam conditions and in the right time limit.

I have set up video evidence assignment on google classroom for all video evidence to be uploaded ASAP. Especially, summer sports as there won't be another opportunity before we send data off to be moderated.

Over the summer students will be given key concepts to learn from the course so far. These can be put onto revision cards to assist learning. This is already set as an assignment on google classroom.

Adaptations to the course

Ofqual have recently announced that GCSE PE students 2020-2022 will only require 2 sports instead of 3 towards their final grade. Each sport score will be x by 1.5 to make up the additional score alongside their AEP. Moderation of the sports have also been adapted and therefore, video evidence will be more crucial than ever to support the scores for each candidate.

AEP

As well as practical evidence for the GCSE PE, students have to complete a piece of coursework which is called AEP: Analysing and Evaluating Performance. Students are given 14 hours to complete this in a controlled environment. If students are missing for whatever reason they are still given the full time to complete it and those with extra time get an additional hour. We have made a start on this which again is good progress through the course and students have been working hard.

It has been a pleasure to teach my GCSE PE group this year albeit challenging at times but I will look forward to seeing them back in September. Well done and thank-you for your effort and determination this year.

Cambridge National and GCSE PE

To ensure to work on gaining video evidence for sport students play outside of school, submission in via google classroom and in the assignment called practical evidence.

MFL

There were some very impressive results in the end of Y10 writing exams, well done Year 10! For many of you, this will be the first time you have tried a full Higher tier writing paper, so if it hasn't gone well this time, don't be disheartened and use it as a learning experience. As well as learning to write in a foreign language, you now have to learn the exam technique and how to hit those top bands on the mark scheme.

Summer holidays:

We hope you all manage to have a nice break over the summer holidays and hopefully get out and about a bit more than we have been able to so far this year! But on top of that, it is also a good idea to keep your language knowledge 'topped up' so you don't come back in September having forgotten everything and finding yourself starting again!

Here are some ideas of pain-free ways to keep up your language skills over summer:

- Use Memrise/Quizlet etc. to keep up your vocabulary learning (if you spent just 8 minutes a day every day between 1st July and 30th April – and even taking 4 days off for Christmas, New Year, birthday and one other day of your choice – you would complete all 10 of Mr Farrell's French courses covering the WHOLE of the GCSE content! In German, search for "Stimmt GCSE" and you will find the German equivalents too.
- Listen to French/German music/radio – there are loads of free apps you can have on your phone to stream radio stations from France/Germany
- Watch French/German TV or films – there is so much foreign language content on Netflix, Amazon Prime, YouTube, All4 etc., and you can even change the language of most of your favourite English/American shows/films on these streaming services too

- Try a free language-learning app like DuoLingo – it only needs a few minutes a day to keep your brain in MFL mode!

We are not suggesting you spend your whole summer doing French/German homework, but it is important to keep up some form of vocabulary learning/revision to help it stay in your long-term memory.

Exams in the Autumn Term:

All exams in the autumn term will cover ALL of the content taught so far from the GCSE course. These will be made of past paper questions and carefully designed grammar and translation activities, but will not be full past papers and will be mixed tiers.

Listening/Reading:

You will complete a mixture of online and paper assessments in the autumn term. These will still be mixed tiers so will contain past paper questions from both Foundation and Higher tiers. You will also be tested on your grammar knowledge including common verbs in the past, present and future, and translation.

Speaking:

As we have not been able to assess speaking properly this year in Y10, you will complete an assessed speaking task in the autumn term to help you to prepare for your speaking mock exam in December.

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, www.quizlet.com or 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 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

Music

Well, what a year to run a practical GCSE Music Course in a pandemic and to a brand-new Year 10 class! We lost the ability to teach any composition on computers and to teach the favourite unit for most students - performing! That being said, and it is mainly down to the amazing Year 10 students in the class, we made some tough decisions on what to teach and when, and I have to say after marking the mock examinations recently, the students have done very well indeed. The music department are so proud of you.

We decided to teach the Listening Unit in all lessons at the beginning, as we simply needed a projector, a sound system, some chairs and desks. The students were very openminded as we studied Music from the Baroque and Classical Period which isn't usually anywhere near their Spotify playlists. We focussed on the key roles of the instruments at this time, the most popular forms and structures, Baroque melody patterns, choral music, specific ornaments, operas and oratorios and the classical orchestra to name but a few topics. Listening to plenty of music and watching short clips be it in the classroom or over zoom, they soaked up as much information as they could and again did themselves proud. They listened to, and answered many questions on various pieces of music, that they hadn't heard previously before. To gain the best possible marks in the listening examination the students started to create their own toolkit containing a vast number of keywords AQA recommend. This has proven to be very successful as it was an actual pleasure to mark their listening paper and see their understanding of how music is put together.

Eventually we ended up back in the best place of the school - the Music Department! We still couldn't start to perform as the rules didn't allow it but at least we were able to use ICT to help us to start composing, enabling us to now teach two of the three units of the course. Each student was bought "a seat" to access a cloud-based program called Soundtrap which enables them to compose both at school and at home if they have a computer. It is an amazing piece of software which doesn't need any other specialist equipment that is usually needed to create music. The music department has continued to pay for their seat to be used throughout Year 11 to help them make good progress in composition.

At this point, the remaining unit, Performance, was all being covered at home with the set tasks for the students to record and send examples of them playing over Google Classroom during specific times of the term. Over the last term, we were thrilled to finally let the students start to perform in areas of the department on certain instruments. The full course was back, and the students were enjoying it even more!

Whilst the students have been practicing composition and performance this year, next September they will start to compose and perform as part of their actual coursework. As a performing arts subject, from summer onwards students must use their time wisely and rehearse independently on their performance to achieve the best possible marks when recording next year. Due to COVID, the coursework has been trimmed down for the current Year 10 group, just as it was for the Year 11's who have just finished.

Composition

- Students will now need to compose one piece of music with a duration of at least two minutes.
- Compositions may be in response to a set brief or be freely composed.
- Submissions must include a complete recording of the composition with a score, lead sheet or written account produced by the student.
- The recording may be computer generated.

Performance

- Students will now need to compose one piece of music with a duration of at least two minutes.
- Compositions may be in response to a set brief or be freely composed.
- Submissions must include a complete recording of the composition with a score, lead sheet or written account produced by the student.
- The recording may be computer generated.

The listening examination paper remains the same as previous years.

Over the summer holiday, whilst the students deserve a good long rest, they will be set work on google classroom covering a performance, composition and listening task.

As ever, if you have any questions, please email cgw@phs.cheshire.sch.uk

Take care and have a lovely break.

The Music Department.

Drama

Drama students in Year 10 have been working incredibly hard on adjusting their ways of working this term by moving much of their discussion and documentation and even their actual rehearsals online. This has been a tough change to adjust to for all of us who are used to working practically and communally in a space. But, we have been able to have at least some time together in small groups to rehearse and workshop ideas in the studios at school- which has been fantastic and a total pleasure. The maturity, flexibility and creativity of the students has been notable.

This term:

The work this term has been in preparation for a practical piece of devised drama (their GCSE component 1) which is currently scheduled for presentation early in the first term of year 11, however the development process is also key for their GCSE attainment.

To this end, all students will now have completed a draft first stage of their 'portfolio of evidence' to support this ongoing process

Students have considered their own creative approach to staging their 'set-text' (DNA by Dennis Kelly) and watched Small Island by the National Theatre (albeit online) and with this they have undertaken a mock 'Component 3' paper. They will have chance to hone and improve their written skills in interpreting, analysing and evaluating theatre in the coming year.

Before or over the summer:

Students should ensure the work submitted to their Google Classroom Group encompasses and reflects all the research and development of the devised piece have undertaken as this will be invaluable when compiling their next stage of the portfolio.

Watch as much theatre as possible. The National Theatre online library login details for students is on Google Classroom and they are encouraged to dip into this as frequently as they can.

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

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, this year has had its challenges but throughout you have conducted yourselves in the most mature way and tackled these as they have arisen.

We hope you have a lovely and restful summer holiday, we will look forward to welcoming you all back to school on Monday 6th September.

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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