

# Poynton High School

## and Performing Arts College

Head Teacher: Mr M Dean

Thursday, 03 February 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

As in most schools nationally, January was challenging as we faced the highest levels of COVID-related staff absence since the start of the pandemic. I want to thank our staff for the way they have worked together to ensure that we can continue to provide face to face learning and extra-curricular activities for our students. I hope that you enjoy reading about some of these in the January edition of the newsletter which is published today <https://www.phs.cheshire.sch.uk/schoolnewsletter>

Thank you as well to those of you who replied to the parental survey last week on supporting your child with their learning and wellbeing. This feedback has been really useful to us as I outline below.

### Supporting Students to have good mental health

We are pleased to be among the schools who were awarded a Department for Education grant for senior mental health lead training. In this first year only about a third of schools were successful in their application. Miss Holyland has now completed the training which will support us in reviewing and further improving our provision. Our next steps include:

- Developing the school mental health policy on which we consulted parents and students last week
- Further developing the resources available to parents. See [Poynton High School - Supporting Your Child With Their Wellbeing \(phs.cheshire.sch.uk\)](https://www.phs.cheshire.sch.uk/supporting-your-child-with-their-wellbeing)
- Hosting parental workshops on aspects of mental health. I look forward to inviting you to the first of these soon.

We know that being a teenager has always been challenging, and in recent years the mental health of young people has become a bigger focus across the world. By working together with you as parents we can continue to improve the mental health of our students.

### Road Safety

We have asked the Local Authority to repaint the road markings at the front of school so that they are more visible to drivers. We are grateful to our parents for taking care when driving and parking near school. Students should not be dropped off on site unless there are mobility issues as increased traffic on site does increase the risk to students.

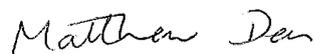
## Face Coverings in School

As you know students are no longer asked to wear face coverings in classrooms, although they can decide to continue to wear their own face covering should they wish in a lesson. Face coverings will, however, continue to be expected in internal communal areas for a short time. For us this means in corridors and in queues in the restaurant only. I want to do everything I can to ensure that learning in school can continue as normal. We will keep this under regular review and thank you for your support with this measure.

## Celebrating our students

I talked in my last letter about our high expectations of students. The vast majority of our students are getting it right every day and we have looked at new ways to celebrate these students. We already have the House Points, which work well, and in addition we have now introduced our monthly prize draws. As we visit lessons we will be celebrating students for their work and issuing them with a ticket for the draw. Every student who receives a ticket will have a chance of winning one of the prizes at the end of each month. We will email parents of every student entered into the raffle so that you can ask your child about their good work. I will also write this week to the parents of those students with the most House Points in each year form as well.

Yours sincerely,



Matthew Dean  
Headteacher