

Poynton High School

and Performing Arts College

Head Teacher: Mr D. Waugh

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope this letter finds you all well and that you have a lovely summer ahead of you, whatever that may look like in these new times. As we move into the summer break I look back and reflect on what has to be the most challenging, yet most inspiring in equal measure, time over these last five months. The challenges we have faced in moving from an entirely face-to-face professional industry, to a remote-learning industry has been unfathomable. Yet throughout this, our students and our staff have been inspiring. It is often the case in life that we underestimate the resilience and the brilliance of young people and if these last few months have demonstrated anything, it has been that our students and our community are truly inspirational and resilient and have demonstrated true citizenship in so many ways.

The purpose of this letter is twofold, firstly to wish you all a happy summer break and secondly to update you on my plans for September. I have attempted to detail below some key aspects of our September planning however this is not everything, it is simply a flavour. I will write again more fully in week beginning 17th August 2020 with summary guides for both parents and carers and our students. However I wanted to give you an overview of where my planning is at time of writing, but this is very much subject to change as the guidance evolves.

Congratulations to all of our students who have received "Head Teacher Well Done Post Cards" over the last few weeks. I still have approximately 150 to write so will do these over the next couple of weeks. Also, well done to all of our "Key Stage 3 Reward" winners, our "Reading Challenge" winners, our annual award winners and our Poynton's Got Talent participants and winners. There has been so much inspirational work completed on both Doodle and Google Classroom that it is far too numerous to mention.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank our staff. Our staff have worked tirelessly, often in the face of challenges that seem insurmountable, to completely rewrite our entire learning curriculum. I feel that I am genuinely blessed to have our staff team. I am genuinely blessed to have had the opportunity to serve you, them and our students. These last five months, in fact, this last year, has once again shown me that there is no greater school, no greater team, no greater staff body, than this school, this team and this staff body. We do not get it right all of the time, however I hope that our students genuinely feel inspired, so that they can achieve and that we celebrate that achievement at every opportunity. In a recent report I wrote "...there is genuinely no reason why Poynton High School cannot become the best school on the planet. It has the right ingredients, dedicated leaders at every level, highly skilled, experienced and ambitious staff, and most importantly, inspirational young people. It is my absolute pleasure to serve you". So as we move forward to our "new norm" in September, I hope that we will continue to serve and inspire and that we continue to work in partnership for the betterment of all we serve.

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Before I try and summarise the current September plans I want to encourage all of us, all parents, carers, students and families to do one thing this summer, READ! There is a lot of discussion in the media and amongst all educationalists about how we can “catch-up” the gaps that will no doubt have been formed. I believe that the number one ingredient to facilitating that catch-up is reading. It is through reading that we will re-engage language and literacy. It is through reading that we will re-stimulate our thinking and imaginations. It is through reading that we will best support the need for a rapid re-engagement in knowledge acquisition. These are the key ingredients for future success. So my plea is to encourage reading at every possible moment this summer. We will be establishing a full reading engagement strategy for the 2020-21 academic year but any support you can give in advance of this would be wonderful. I really cannot stress this enough, reading is the absolute key to future success and we all have our role to play in supporting our students as they start to return.

Overview of September 2020

It is the government’s intention that all students, in all year groups, return to school full time from the beginning of the autumn term. Therefore, I can confirm that from 1st September 2020 onwards we will be aiming to secure a full in-school provision for all students in all year groups based on the following phased approach:

- Induction of Year 7 and Year 12 students
- Re-introduction of Years 10, 11 and 13 students, alongside Years 7 and 12 induction
- Re-introduction and re-socialisation of Years 8 and 9
- Full subject based “recovery curriculum” provision for all year groups

In order to support the induction and re-introduction of our students back to Poynton High School we will focus on a ‘Recovery Curriculum’ made up of the following aspects:

- Re-socialisation and re-engagement focus
- Reading and literacy recovery (i.e. the fundamental building blocks of all knowledge acquisition)
- Transition focus (Yr7 & Yr12)
- Content catch-up
- Summative and formative assessments to support staff planning to “recover” the “lost” curriculum.

Please note, there is a difference between the “**recovery curriculum**” and “**recovering the curriculum**” and we must work on the basis of both aspects being of equal importance. The “recovery curriculum” is a term used to describe the activities and actions we employ to support getting our students back having had six months away from in-school provision. Supporting our students where they may have faced isolation, poverty, attachment issues, lack of structure, mental anguish, worry, stress, etc. The impact mentally, physically, emotionally, spiritually, etc. is unfathomable. Their resilience, self-worth, motivation, drive, ambition, will have had a metamorphic shift. Activities in lessons, within form groups and across the whole curriculum provision will ensure a keen focus on this “recovery”.

Our focus on “recovering the curriculum” will focus on ensuring we teach an ambitious and broad curriculum in all subjects from the start of the autumn term, but make use of existing flexibilities to create time to cover the most important missed content. Ultimately, we will ensure that we return to the school’s normal curriculum in all subjects by summer term 2021.

September Induction Period

Initially, the returning structure will be as follows:

	<u>Focus</u>	<u>Year groups in attendance</u>
Monday 31st August	Bank Holiday	
Tuesday 1st September	Staff INSET: - Teaching and learning - Recovery Curriculum - Use of the Metacognition Toolkit to support students	None
Wednesday 2nd September	Staff INSET: - Teaching and learning - Recovery Curriculum - Safeguarding	None
Thursday 3rd September	Transition Focus	Year 7 Year 12
Friday 4th September	Transition Focus Re-socialisation and re-engagement focus	Year 7 Year 10 Year 11 Year 12 Year 13
Monday 7th September	Re-socialisation and re-engagement focus	Year 7 (Bridging the Gap Day) Year 8 Year 9

Please note, students will be supported in form groups and assembly groups up to and including Tuesday 8th September, i.e. there will be no subject based lessons until Wednesday 9th September onwards.

The detail for the remainder of September is as follows:

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Focus</u>	<u>Year Groups</u>
Week beginning 7 th September	Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday	Years 7,8&9 only; Forms & Cultural Focus All year groups; Forms & Cultural Focus All year groups; Subject based induction focus All year groups; Subject based induction focus All year groups; Subject based induction focus
Week beginning 14 th September	Full subject led curriculum for all year groups focussed on 'assessment of learning gap through low stakes assessments'	All year groups in all subjects

Week beginning 21 st September	Continuation of subject specific recovery curriculum plans. Medium stakes assessments for Year 13	Each subject area will continue with their detailed plans for their recovery curriculum. Year 13 will undertake a full set of assessments-examinations as 'mock' set up, i.e. main hall with invigilation.
Week beginning 28 th September	Continuation of subject specific recovery curriculum plans Thursday 1 st Oct Friday 2 nd Oct	Mon/Tues/Wed all year groups based on subject timetables Remote learning for all year groups. Two in- school staff INSETs focussed in teams to bring together all low stakes and high stakes assessment understanding and to establish updated action planning to 'recover' our students' learning.

There are a vast range of initiatives and processes that we are establishing in school to support the full return of approximately 1500 young people in September. In summary:

- The traditional timetable will be running approximately as normal in terms of the number of lessons and the nature of those lessons
- Year groups will be allocated up to 10 specific rooms and they will 'exist' solely in those rooms. This would be their **Year Group Bubble Zone**.
- In Years 7, 8 and 9 students will exist solely in **Half Year Group Bubbles**. This means that they will be taught in their own rooms, in their own part of school, with staff moving to them
- Each set of Year Group Bubbles would exist separately therefore throughout the day we have no mixing of students; different entrances to the site, different zones of the school that they will "live-in", different break and lunchtimes.
- The only time the students would move would be twofold:
 - o Firstly, when they were not in their form group and they were in a set subject. So for example, if they had maths period 2 after history period 1. They would then simply redistribute into those 10 classrooms. But they would be in the same Year Group Bubble Zone.
 - o Secondly, when specialist provision was required. So for example, in year 7, two groups require specialist food technology provision. At that point, those students would leave their Year Group Bubble Zone, travelling around the outside of the building, and enter into the designated specialist rooms for food via the outside door. At the end of the lesson, they would then leave by the outside door and return to their Year Group Bubble Zone. The rooms would then be wiped down and cleaned before another year group accessed this specialist provision.

The number one priority is the health and safety of our students and our staff, therefore the key principles for health and safety are:

1. Minimise contact with those who are unwell
2. Cleaning hands
3. Ensuring good respiratory hygiene
4. Enhanced cleaning
5. Minimising contact and maintaining social distancing between individuals, by:
 - a. Grouping children together
 - b. Avoid contact between groups
 - c. Arranging classrooms with forward facing desks
 - d. Staff maintaining distance from pupils and other staff as much as possible
6. Wearing of PPE where appropriate
7. Engaging with the NHS test and trace process
8. Managing confirmed Covid-19 cases in the school community
9. Containing outbreaks

In preparing our response to these challenges I have established a full series of risk assessments and new procedures, full details will be shared in August. As way of a summary of these new procedures I have listed a number of them below, however this is by no means an exhaustive list:

- Students will 'exist' in separate **Year Group Bubbles** (in many cases these will be half year group bubbles)
- Where students need to access specialist provision (e.g. science, food technology, music, drama, product design, etc.) they will travel from their Year Group Bubble Zone to the specialist room around the outside of the building and into the specialist area by an external door
- A strict 2m social distancing rule will be in existence for students to staff
- A strict 2m social distancing rule will be in existence for the internal movement of students and staff
- Students will attend in full uniform. Details of uniform changes for days they have PE will be circulated in August
- Students will wear year group lanyards and will be given an ID Card for use on the catering computer system (the biometric thumb print system will be taken out temporarily)
- Our library will function on a click and collect system
- We will have two medical facilities, one non-Covid and one Covid related. The Covid related medical facility will be in an isolated part of school with an external entrance and separate isolation booths and toileting facilities
- We have significantly increased the amount of hand sanitiser dispensing machines across the whole school. There will be 'banks' of them available in all of the key areas
- We have purchased substantial additional hand washing stations and these will be placed at the entrances to school for each year group
- We will not be allowing any visitors to site, parent meetings will need to happen via either Google Classroom or Zoom
- We have significant stocks of tissues and various other elements of PPE available in school
- The wearing of face masks is currently not permitted however this is very much a watching brief as the guidance is being adjusted daily


- We hope to decrease the number of students using public transport by at least 50% (government target) and are working with families where this is applicable
- School buses will be zoned. Students will have to sit (facing forwards) in their year group zone and sanitise their hands on the way on to the bus and on their way off
- Home learning will be set via Google Classroom; feedback will be given via Google Classroom. It will only be in very limited cases where exercise books will be taken in by staff and if that is the case they will be left in isolation for 72 hours
- We hope to achieve that any student who lives within 2 miles of school walks to school. We would hope that no one who lives that close is transported via either the school bus or by their parents and carers. We have a major role to play in supporting our whole community and a key part of this strategy is to significantly reduce the movement of people in our village
- Activities in music, dance, drama and PE will be adjusted in line with government guidance and public health advice. Activities where there is an increased exhaling of breath will not be allowed within the buildings and only outside if they can be completed at an appropriate social distance, for example, there will not be any choirs performing in the building, drama will adjust their performance scenes accordingly, etc.
- Individual staff and student risk assessments will be carried out for those who are deemed most vulnerable and appropriate adjustments will be made
- Only two year groups at a time will have their breaks at the same time, for example, years 7 and 11 will be on break at the same time, years 8 and 10 and then year 9 separately

As you can imagine, the list of adjustments is significant. My current "working model" is 90 pages long. I will work over the next few weeks to finalise all arrangements and then produce a series of "Guides to..." brochures for parents, carers and students. A full re-introduction process will be established and I will continually update you via letter, twitter and our website with how we are progressing.

Once again, I must apologise for the length of this letter but I felt it very important to give you this level of detail for over the summer break. May I once again make a plea that you encourage reading at every possible opportunity but also encourage your sons and daughters to continue to socially distance as per the government guidelines throughout the summer and in all situations. It is very hard for young people, who have been in lock down for so long, not to meet up and revert to their perceived social norms. We are all fighting this virus together and it is vital that we all play our part. We have had an exceptional experience with our students in school over the last month and I very much look forward to welcoming everyone back in September. If you have any questions about our September 2020 planning in advance of the publication of our guides please do not hesitate to e-mail me on dwaugh@psh.cheshire.sch.uk

I hope you all have a peaceful, safe and family filled summer break. When we return in September it will be yet again a "new norm" but I am extremely confident that our inspirational young people will rise to the challenge and excel in all that they do.

Yours faithfully



Mr David Waugh
Head Teacher