



TRUE LEARNING
PARTNERSHIP



Poynton High School and Performing Arts College

Head Teacher: Mr M Dean

Friday, 10 February 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you are well. In this letter I am sharing some important updates with you which I hope are useful.

Revision: Preparation, Performance and Progress

We have introduced a new revision strategy to students in school. Initially this has been launched to Years 11 and 13 through assemblies and a 'walking, talking' revision session with Year 11. Over the next few weeks it will be launched to the other years as well but some teachers will already be using it. This builds on the successful work on revision and knowledge retrieval that we have used previously, and which contributed to the Year 11 and 13 students achieving results in 2022 which were the best in Cheshire East. It also uses some of the latest academic research on memory and revision and gives a common language that all students and staff will use from Year 7. We are looking forward to sharing more about this with Year 11 parents in school on 15 February. Information about the strategy can be found at <https://www.phs.cheshire.sch.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=942&type=pdf>.

Careers Education

This week has been National Apprenticeship Week and we have marked this with assemblies highlighting the careers programme in school for students. Students start working on finding out about careers in Year 7 and there are lots of opportunities for students to engage directly with employers and colleges. We have two of these opportunities coming up soon. On 14 February the BBC are in to deliver a project called Share Your Story. The project is designed to show the ways in which story telling is used in a variety of careers and will involve Years 8-10 students. On 1 March there is a post-16 options event during the day which is aimed at Years 7-10 and

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students will have the chance to engage with employers and Further Education institutions. For more information on our Careers programme visit <https://www.phs.cheshire.sch.uk/careers>.

Welfare Bulletin

Thank you for the feedback on our recent Welfare Bulletin <https://www.phs.cheshire.sch.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=939&type=pdf>. One parent asked us to include a reference to the Eating Disorder Awareness Week which is happening between 27 February and 5 March. The focus this year is on eating disorders in men. More details are available on Beat's website <https://www.beateatingdisorders.org.uk/>. We are really grateful for this engagement and for parental support of students. If you think there are any other links that would be worth highlighting then please do let us know.

Working together to stop students vaping

Across the country vaping has become a growing issue and unfortunately we have a number of students who we know have vaped. This is not a positive move for any young person as vaping is only advised as a temporary step for an adult giving up smoking. No student should be vaping in or out of school. It is not harmless and it is especially important to protect young lungs and brains. That's why there's a minimum age of sale for vaping products in the UK. It is illegal to sell nicotine vaping products to anyone under 18 or for adults to buy them on behalf of under-18s. Clearly vaping is not allowed by staff or students anywhere on our site and students will be sanctioned if they are caught vaping.

We have also reported retailers who we believe are selling either nicotine vapes or tobacco products to under-18s. I would encourage you to take the same action if you became aware as a parent. You can [report a retailer to local authority Trading Standards](#) via the Citizens Advice online portal.

We educate students in school about the dangers of smoking and vaping and it would be really helpful if this was reinforced at home so that young people understand the health facts about vaping and know about vaping and the law.

Facts to tell young people about vaping (taken from the NHS website):

- Vaping is a way for adults to stop smoking – not something for non-smokers, especially children and young people to try.
- Vaping exposes users to some toxins, and we do not yet know what the risks might be in the longer term.
- Some vapes contain nicotine, which is an addictive substance that can be hard to stop using once you have started.
- Nicotine may be more risky for young people than for adults, as evidence suggests the brain in adolescence is more sensitive to its effects.

School Canteen

A number of students are overspending on their lunch accounts and as a result are going into debt. Although we try to be flexible with students we cannot allow students to get further in debt. To prevent this we will not allow students to go overdrawn at any time by more than £10. We would be grateful if you could look at the ParentPay account to see if there is any debt that needs paying off. Students also need to bring their fob to school to pay as this makes the process so much quicker. For more information about ParentPay please go to <https://www.phs.cheshire.sch.uk/parents/parentpay>

Google Classroom

All home learning can be found on Google Classroom. We also put a student bulletin up there every Tuesday and Thursday for students to read. This gives a range of useful information for students. Other messages will be delivered through form time.

Mobile Phones in school

As you know students in Years 7-11 are not allowed to use their phones in school. We appreciate that many students will bring a phone, which is fine as long as it is not seen, used or heard. If this does happen then it will be confiscated and parents can collect after school at the end of the following school day. This also applies to airpods as that is clearly a use of a phone and if that happens the air pods will be confiscated. This policy has been in place for several years and has improved engagement in lessons and meant that students actually talk to each other in person rather than relying on their phones.

Class Charts

We are pleased with the success of Class Charts which has given parents a much better understanding of how many House points or consequence points students receive. You can also view a student's timetable on Class Charts and for some students it would be really helpful if that was something that they looked at with parents the night before to ensure they come properly equipped for school. Organisation is a problem for a small number of students and this support from home as they develop good habits would be really appreciated. Class Charts is available as an App or through the website. More information can be found at <https://www.phs.cheshire.sch.uk/page/?title=Class+Charts&pid=338>

January Newsletter

We published the January newsletter earlier this week and it can be found at <https://sway.office.com/ccdvXkEUXSsFCIsA?ref=Link>. I hope that you enjoy reading it.

Best Wishes,



Matthew Dean
Headteacher