



Poynton High School **Year 11 Parent and Carer Bulletin – February 2023**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Year 11 have worked so incredibly hard this half term, and are continuing to work really hard in preparation for their next set of mock examination examinations.

Each half term I will send out a year group bulletin, inside you will find important information about what students have been studying recently and what is coming up next half term for our students. It will also contain information about strategies suggested by subject tutors to ensure students achieve their maximum potential.

Revision and examination support

As a school we are committed to ensuring that you feel that you are well equipped in supporting your young person through their GCSEs. We have been working with students this half term about effective revision looking at 'Preparation, Performance, Progress'. Students have looked at this during form time, in lessons and all took part in a walking, talking English revision sessions. Thank you to all parents who attended our revision support evening this half term so that you can support your young person with their revision.

Our website also contains lots of practical support for both yourself and your young person regarding revision techniques and strategies.

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

There is also a KS4 Revision Drop-in session where students can come to do their own revision and I can support them if needed with tips on revision. This takes place every Tuesday in room 36 from 3:15 – 4:15pm. This will resume on Tuesday 4th March.

Important dates

- Assessment 3: 03/03/23 – 10/03/23
- Progress Grades: 25/04/23
- Prom: 29/06/23
- All students must be available until 1st July 2023.

Student voice

At Poynton High School we value our students and want them to have the opportunity to share their views. Each half term Mr Shaw is meeting with representatives from each form in year 10 and year 11 with a different focus. This half term they discussed conduct, safeguarding and support in school, looking at what the school is doing well and what we could do better. We will use this to help us continue to support our young people.

English

- Currently working on non-fiction skills in English Language;
- In English Literature we have covered every topic and have started to revise for the mock/real assessments.
- Over February half-term a revision pack will be set on Google Classroom that covers a recap of all areas of both GCSE courses. It is imperative students complete as much of these packs as possible to identify the gaps in their knowledge;
- It is important to start revising early, particularly topics such as Creative Reading and Writing, *An Inspector Calls*, Poetry, *Macbeth* and Non-Fiction reading as they were studied early in the course and may have been forgotten by now;
- Centralised home revision tasks continue to be set via Google Classroom. This is the BEST way to revise for English Language and Literature;
- Details of supported study sessions will be shared with students the week after February half-term. These sessions provide an opportunity for students to attempt the “Heavy-Hitter” questions (Q4/A5 in Language and essay-style questions in Literature);
- A range of additional resources will be available on Google Classroom to support students with their revision.
 - For GCSE English Language, we have shared model questions, model answers, structure reminders and language-focused tasks
 - For GCSE English Literature, we have shared key quotations (with added explanation), key context points, character profiles and quote revision activities
- Use the subject flowcharts to identify gaps in knowledge and access ideas of how to address this.

Maths

Students will in year 11 should be nearing the end of covering the topics they will meet in the summer exams and now the attention will turn over towards the “performance” aspect of the exams and revisiting topics and making the learning ‘stick’. Alongside the individual feedback given back to students on the Exam Analysis spreadsheet completed in class, the students will be given a GCSE shadow paper to go over with this feedback and look to target questions which they struggled on first time around. Shadow papers are the exact same papers as the actual GCSE paper except different numbers and contexts have been used where possible. These papers have the same grade boundaries as the actual paper and can be looked at as a second attempt at the mock carried out before Christmas.

The next assessment students will meet will be a second mock taking place on Tuesday 7th and Thursday 9th of March. This will be under the same conditions as the first mock and the summer exam series so it is essential that the students come fully prepared for this as at this stage, it will be our last full rehearsal for the summer exam series and it would be great to get a full reflection of students at this stage. We will again be going through the assessment as we did with the first mock and giving individualised, question by question analysis to really refine and scrutinise every area. and which mirrors have covered all necessary topics before February half term and so the focus after this will be generated from the mocks and homework tasks. Class teachers will design a specific revision programme for their class based on their strengths and weaknesses; this will include practice papers, revision lessons and problem solving lessons.

The order for the year 11 revision guides has now gone to the supplier and we look to receive them after the half term break. Students should be bringing these to lessons to help them in class and also as part of their individual personal revision. Class teachers have developed a series of lessons which will aid the students preparation for their exams covering revision, exam technique and practice.

There are several resources being added to google classroom on a regular basis so please encourage students to check this regularly.

Science

Subject	This half term	Next half term
Biology	<p>Separate Science Students: Have learned about how DNA controls the body and how genetic characteristics are inherited</p> <p>Combined Science Students: Have been learning about the causes of our characteristics and how inherited features are passed on.</p> <p>All: Have analysed their assessment and completed a series of follow up tasks designed to build on key skills</p>	<p>Separate Science Students: Will be learning about the causes and importance of variation in a species and how different theories of evolution try to explain the change in species over time. They will carry out their final Required Practical into Antibiotic Resistance.</p> <p>Combined Science Students: Will be learning about the causes and importance of variation in a species and how Darwin's Theory of Natural Selection explains evolution.</p> <p>All: Will complete a Paper 2 mock exam to assess their knowledge and progress since December.</p>
Chemistry	<p>Separate Science Students: Students have evaluate the recent mock exams to identify targets for improvement and plan how they will achieve these. They have continued to study topic C8 Chemical analysis looking at pure substances, formulations and chemical testing. They have carried out a required practical to identify an unknown substance.</p> <p>Combined Science Students: Students have evaluated the recent mock exams to identify targets for improvement and plan how they will achieve these. They have also complete their studies of organic chemistry (topic C7) looking at</p>	<p>Separate Science Students: Will finish the last of their Paper 2 content on Using Resources and will revise for, sit and evaluate a Paper 2 mock examination. They will be issued with a chunked revision booklet to guide them.</p> <p>Combined Science Students: Will revise for, sit and evaluate a Paper 2 mock examination. They will be issued with a chunked revision booklet to guide them. They will then move on to the last topic of Paper 2 content, Using Resources.</p>

	products from crude oil and move on to study Chemical analysis (topic C8) looking at pure substances, formulations and chemical testing.	
Physics	<p>Separate Science Students: Students have continued their studies of Waves, before moving onto Electromagnetism.</p> <p>Combined Science Students: Students have continued their studies of Waves, before moving onto the final topic of Electromagnetism.</p>	<p>Separate Science Students: Students will be completing their electromagnetism studies before starting the final topic of space.</p> <p>Combined Science Students: Students will complete the last part of the electromagnetism topic before starting revision for the upcoming exams.</p>

Assessments

Year 11s have had their grades back from their paper 1 mocks, this has helped to guide us and them with regards to tier entry but paper 2 grades are also important in ensuring the correct decision is made for students which is why it is crucial that students fully prepare for these exams.

- **2nd Mock Examinations (Starting end of first week after holiday)** : These will assess the Paper 2 content of the course. All students will sit 3 separate papers (one for each of the Sciences).

Revision for Paper 2 mock

To help support your child in preparing for the upcoming Science GCSE mock exams in March, the Science team has coordinated several revision resources to help ensure students are fully prepared. We would really appreciate your support in encouraging your son/daughter to complete these tasks. These include:

Chunked revision

All students have been set revision tasks/past paper questions to complete for Biology, Chemistry and Physics. These will be set in designated weekly 'chunks'. There will be tasks to complete for each science over half term, and then one question/task per science will be set each week leading up to their March mock exams.

Students should revise the topics of the questions each week and then complete the exam questions to apply their knowledge and practice exam technique.

Seneca

All students have now been re-introduced to Seneca and should have logged in and completed an introductory assignment. **Please note – we are using different emails to login this year, as we now have classes synced to the school registers. The students will need to use their emails ending @pfs.cheshire.sch.uk, and the initial password is seneca2020.** Seneca is a free online resource which we will use for teacher directed revision. Students can also use it for independent revision to help them consolidate work from previous topics and years. The more students complete on Seneca, the better it tailors tasks personalised to each student and the areas they need to focus on. If students are not sure how to log in or access their Science class assignments please tell them to ask their Science teacher.

<https://senecalearning.com/en-GB/> . Class teachers will set teacher-directed work on here to complete in preparation for the mock examinations.

Revision guides

The majority of students purchased these last year. If your child does not have one and you would like them to have one, below are details of how you can 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>

History

Year 11 are now half way through their last unit on the Reigns of King Richard and King John and have sat their assessment on King Richard this half term. As you will be aware Year 11 students have another set of mock examinations at the start of March and students should be revising the History of Medicine unit for this examination. They should be using their exercise books from Year 10, revision guides and should make use of resources on BBC Bitesize and Seneca Learning.

The History Department will be running weekly revision sessions on the American West and they start on the first Thursday back after half term. Students need to sign up on the sheet outside room 73 if they wish to attend these sessions.

Geography

- The upcoming mock examination will be 1 hour long and will cover Changing Economic World and Physical Landscapes of the UK (Rivers and Coasts).
- In lessons, students are currently working through the Living World unit, this has a focus on Tropical Rainforests and Deserts.
- Students are being set a weekly revision assignment on Google Classroom, this includes a quiz, knowledge organiser activity and practice examination questions. Students such submit a photo of any revision they complete on Google Classroom. The focus of these revision assignments is topics studied during Year 10.
- Please could you support your child in ensuring they know where all of their exercise books and work booklets are along with their revision guides so that they have these to help aid their revision.

MFL

Well done to Year 11 students for their work this term! Year 11 French and Spanish are working on the final Module of the course global issues (environment, healthy lifestyles, international events etc...)

Year 11 students have now completed their Mock exams which have allowed staff to identify where students need support to achieve their best in the summer examinations. They have received individual feedback on their grades and we have started revision sessions. After half-term, Year 11 will complete another Reading assessment in the 2nd set of mocks.

They will also sit their first formal GCSE exam after the Easter holidays for the Speaking component of the exam. Like in the mocks, students will be given a date and a time to come and complete their exam. They are well prepared now having sat the mocks speaking in December.

French revision sessions:



Y11 GCSE Revision Sessions

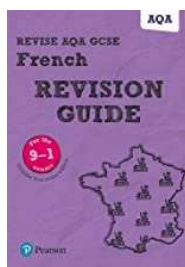


Room 47 3:30-4:30pm

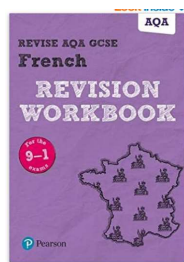
<u>Date</u>	<u>Tier</u>	<u>Focus</u>
Tues 7 th Mar	F	Foundation Writing Skills
Weds 8 th Mar	C9	Cloud 9 Listening Skills
Weds 22 nd Mar	F/H	Role Plays (S)
Tues 28 th Mar	F/H	Photo Cards (S)
Weds 19 th Apr	C9	Cloud 9 Speaking Practice
Weds 26 th Apr	F	“Walking Talking Mock” Reading F
Weds 3 rd May	H	“Walking Talking Mock” Reading H
Tues 9 th May	C9	Grammar Revision (W)
Tues 16 th May	F/H	Vocabulary Building (W)
Thurs 18 th May	F/H	Listening/Reading strategies

It's not too late if you haven't yet purchased revisions guides, you can the guides here:

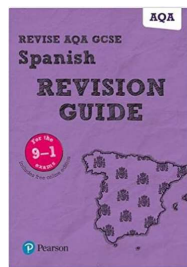
French:



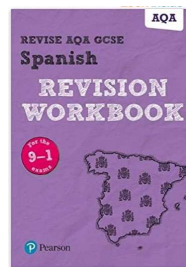
and



Spanish:



and



Useful websites:

Most 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

GCSE Business

Our Year 11 classes are working well on Unit 5, learning about branding, the marketing mix as well as segmentation and market research. Their mock exams will focus on Units 5 and 6, allowing students to develop their understanding of Paper 2. A great way to help your child become more aware of the business world is to encourage them to watch the news, shows such as Dragon's Den or The Apprentice, read business related articles or podcasts. In order to support their studies, the following revision guide and workbook is recommended <https://www.amazon.co.uk/GCSE-Business-Complete-Revision-Practice/dp/1789080886/>

CNAT Enterprise and Marketing

Our Year 11 CNAT students are working towards their pitches for R066 where they will pitch their pizza ideas in an attempt to have them added to the menu of a national pizza chain. Please encourage your child to practice these at home to become confident as well as watching shows such as Dragon's Den or The Apprentice to get an idea of what works well and what doesn't! Pitches will be held in school on Monday 27th March and students will spend period 1 making their pizzas and then will have a 10 minute time slot during the day to pitch their idea. Students will have until 5th May to complete their R066 coursework. This work will then be sent to the exam board. Results for the R064 exam will be in school on 16th March.

Computer Science

Year 11s have begun recapping topics. Students have been given a past paper to complete over the holidays, which they will go over in class.

With regards to programming at home, students have been recommended to install Python and use the IDLE, in order to improve their programming skills.

CNAT iMedia

Year 11 students are coming to the end of their Animation unit. This unit of work will be completed by February half-term, allowing plenty of time to prepare for the examination unit.

We offer drop in sessions for students at lunchtime in Room 28 and after school sessions on Wednesdays and Thursdays in rm 28, with both iMedia teachers. We strongly recommend that students attend these sessions if they are behind in their coursework assignments, in order for them to achieve the best grade possible.

Cambridge National Sport

Our year 11 students have been working hard to make sure that they are prepared for their leadership session. In theory, our students have been completing their risk assessment and session plan and in practical lessons they have been practicing their warm ups and their drills with their peers. A very important upcoming day for our year 11 students is **Tuesday 14th March**. Tuesday 14th March is the scheduled day where our students will deliver their leadership sessions to year 7 and 8 students during periods 1 and 2. It is essential that all students engage with this day entirely and prepare thoroughly. As a department, we run a Cambridge National Catch Up/ Revision session that we offer on Wednesdays and Thursdays after school in Room 7 from 3:15pm to 4:15pm. Best of luck with your leadership session, Year 11. Continue to work hard in preparation.

Mr Shaw and Miss Hancock

Textiles

Year 11 Textiles have been focusing on their NEA folder this term and Mrs Mottram has been completing fortnightly progress checks. Miss Mills will begin with us next term as Mrs Browning's replacement. Miss Mill's will continue with the making of the products with put students and complete the analysis and evaluation element of the NEA folders. Students are encouraged to attend the catch – up sessions with Mrs Mottram each Tuesday and Wednesday after school in either 59 or 54. These sessions are one hour long and will give students the opportunity to have one-to-one guidance for their individual projects.

Year 11 have their mock exam when they return from the half term break. Mrs Mottram has given students a paper to complete and red pen over the break with the mark scheme posted on Google Classroom. A list of topics to revise will also be added to Google Classroom to ensure students have focused on topics covered in the upcoming paper.

Food Preparation and Nutrition

Year 11 Food have been focusing on their NEA project set by the examining board OCR. After the half term break all three groups will be completing their practical exam in room 58 periods 1-3. The dates are as follows –

11A/Fn2 – Monday 27th February

11A/Fn1 – Wednesday 1st March

11D/Fn1 – Thursday 2nd March

Please ensure students bring their ingredients for this date with their time plans printed to follow. Students may also want to bring in their own plates and extras for garnish as the visual element is awarded highly in the mark scheme.

Year 11 also have their written mock exam when they return from the half term break. Class teachers have given students a paper to complete and red pen over the break with the mark scheme posted on Google Classroom. A list of topics to revise will also be added to Google Classroom to ensure students have focused on topics covered in the upcoming paper.

GCSE PE

Below are the contacts for the Year 11 GCSE PE cohort:

Mr Megarrell – cme@pchs.cheshire.sch.uk

Mr Henderson – mah@pchs.cheshire.sch.uk (practical only)

This term...

Practical

The students have been finishing off their practical activities ready for their marks to be submitted in March. **Video evidence should have been handed in to their subject teacher by now.** If students are being assessed in skiing and are going away during February 2023 we can extend the deadline to meet this need but it must be submitted on Tuesday 28th February 2023 at the latest to allow for it to be processed and moderated.

Students need to continue to participate in their sport/activities regularly outside of lesson/school time to assist them in the moderation process. We are working closely with our cluster schools (Sandbach & Congleton) to ensure that practical marks are accurate and some students have completed mock practical moderations with these schools. This will hopefully be helpful for the students in the cohort that are chosen for live moderation to help prepare them for the actual moderation day. We will provide more details of the moderation process closer to the time and only if it affects your child.

To support your child through the practical assessment you can look at the specification for each sport on the OCR website (<http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse-physical-education-j587-from-2016/> - click 'guide to non-examined assessment – on the contents page click on 'Skills criteria for practical activities – 'Team' and all sports are listed from this point). If you need more guidance please contact us.

Theory lessons

The students have been completing their Non-Examined Assessment (NEA) written piece of work during this half term in theory lessons exclusively. This is called AEP – Analysing & Evaluating Performance. It is worth 10% of the 40% NEA (the other 30% is the 3 practical scores). The students have 14 hours to complete the assessment and it is generated in lesson on computers. The task in essence is a review of their fitness and performance (strengths & weaknesses) in a sport of their choice (from the OCR list). They then need to create an action plan on a selected weakness (fitness or skill based) for how to improve it using progressive practices. Students have to complete all of the write up in lesson but can spend time at home preparing for it – this will be a continuous homework for this half term.

Interleaving tests

Most students had worked hard on their mock examination preparation and hopefully they are continuing to revise as part of their daily routine. As the students are completing the AEP during theory lessons they have not covered any new content and so for their next mock examination they will be looking at similar areas to their previous one.

Please find the link to the examination board website (OCR) below:

<http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse-physical-education-j587-from-2016/> (the link goes through to the PE GCSE page – the main documents are the 'specification' and 'guide to non-examined assessment').

Please feel free to contact us if you have any queries regarding any matters related to the GCSE PE course or beyond!

Follow us on twitter! @PHS_PhysEd

Music

This term we have been working on our last Set Study which features in the Listening Examination Paper – Mozart’s Clarinet Concerto (movement III)! It is a very technically demanding score with many musical features to find and remember. Once we have analysed the score the students need to be able to read the “two marker questions” and one “eight marker”, recall the information they have studied and answer the question to the point!

Over the last few weeks we have recorded some fantastic performances as part of their coursework and it has been a joy to listen to. The deadline for the performance coursework is week 17th – 21st of March. The sooner the piece is recorded, the more feedback they can receive.

It has equally been exciting to see the students finish their first composition and ready to start the last composition to a brief. The deadline for both compositions to be submitted is 27th - 31st of March. The Music Department is open during Tuesday and Thursday Lunchtimes and after school on a Thursday for any student wanting to make further progress on their coursework.

A reminder that Senior Choir meet weekly lunchtimes and after school rehearsing exciting songs such as an Abba medley in four-part harmony and revisiting a wide repertoire ready for a concert including many of the other extra-curricular groups for parents near Easter. For KS3 we have Sing 7 and Sing 8 vocal groups, and Concert Band who rehearse after school on Thursdays and Jazz Band on Wednesdays.

The instrumental lessons continue to grow from strength to strength developing our superb young musicians and our new singing teacher is in high demand!

Have a lovely break this half term!

Uniform

Details of our uniform policy can be found here:

<https://www.phs.cheshire.sch.uk/aboutus/schooluniform>

Equipment

- 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
- It would also be handy to have their own scissors and glue!

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/school-meals/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' is a dedicated website for young people across Cheshire and Wirral experiencing mental health difficulties.

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

Thank you

Thank you for all of your hard work year 11 and well done on such a brilliant half term. We hope you have a fantastic February half term holiday and look forward to welcoming students back on Monday 27th February.

Please contact us if there are any issues or if you have any questions at all.

Thank you for your continued support.

Miss Harriet Dovey (hdovey@phs.cheshire.sch.uk)
Director of Learning to key stage 4

Miss L Hollingworth (lhollingworth@phs.cheshire.sch.uk)
Welfare lead to key stage 4