



Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope this bulletin finds you and your families safe and well. It has been a fantastic first half term and the students have been brilliant. It has been a pleasure working with and getting to know the Year 8 students over the last eight weeks, and the KS3 Team are really looking forward to celebrating all of their inspiring achievements throughout the year ahead. Inside this bulletin you will find an overview of what is being studied in different subject areas, as well as some ideas about what is ahead next half term.

Please note: School closes at 3.15pm on Friday 25th October

School reopens on Monday 4th November on week 1 of the timetable

- Remember – follow @PHSYear8and9 on twitter for regular updates

English

This term students have been exploring how and why the novel became the most popular form of literature. In this scheme students will have studied extracts from a range of classic texts such as Robinson Crusoe, Frankenstein and Dracula. Next term we will be moving onto Sherlock Holmes and the crime genre.

We encourage all students to read for pleasure in their own time and believe encouraging reading is the most effective way to support your child's English progress

<https://schoolreadinglist.co.uk/category/reading-lists-for-ks3-pupils/> ; it's a great resource for discovering new YA fiction.

- How to support your young person

All Y8 students have been given a reading log to fill in and we encourage them to share this with you as well as their teacher.

- Stretch and Challenge Tasks

Read some linked classic Literature:

- Robinson Crusoe; Daniel Defoe
- Frankenstein; Mary Shelley
- Dracula; Bram Stoker

Listen to a podcast

The Gothic: from Dracula to The Shining; History Extra Podcast

Visit

Manchester Art Museum to see the wide range of 'Romantic' paintings

Maths
















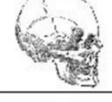
After half term, students will be learning about coordinates and graphs before moving onto the first data topic of the year.

Students should be getting regular written homework and work on Dr Frost Maths <http://drfrostmaths.com> This is the online platform for maths homework. Students can complete tasks set by their teacher, but also do some independent practice to help prepare them for the work to come. Click on the Start a Practice button on the home page or on the Course they've been assigned to practice some skills. Please support your young person in accessing and completing their homework.

- How to support your young person

Just after half term there will be an assessment to show us how much students have learned since being in Year 8. Look out for a revision list on Google Classroom.

- Stretch and Challenge - What is the value in each picture? What do you think the direction means? Tell your maths teacher the answer after half term for house points.

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Science

After half term student will complete their first science assessment. The following pages in the revision guide will help them to revise for this:

- 8B1- Food and Digestion revision guides pages 8-12 practice questions p13, p183 qu 12
- 8C1- Gas tests and the environment revision guide pages 97-99 practice questions p100,
- 8P3- Energy revision guide pages 105 practice question 3 page 108.
- How to support your young person

The revision guide which they purchased at the start of Y7 is suitable for Y7 and 8. Those students who didn't purchase one in Y7 were given the opportunity to buy one again this year through us. Alternatively they can purchase one themselves using the following link:

<https://www.cgpbooks.co.uk/secondary-books/ks3/science/shs35-new-ks3-science-complete-revision>

- Stretch and Challenge activities:

To support their current science topics students may want to watch the following:

8B1 Food and Digestion: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Og5xAdC8EUJ>

8C1 Gas test and Environment: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d7Ci_EooW-k

8P3 Energy: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Eizsm5V8c_c

Religious Studies

Next half term Year 8 will start looking at Life and Beyond. To support with this, parents/carers can encourage their young person to start thinking about what are the different ceremonies that religions might use to mark life and death.

- Stretch and Challenge

Find out 2 different ceremonies such as a Christening that people they know had to celebrate the start of their life.

Geography

Year 8 geographers have come back to school with a bang! Literally – as we are studying Our Restless Earth with a focus on volcanoes. We are studying not only the impacts that they have on the people who live close to them, but also on global impacts throughout time. We are looking at the earth's structure and the evidence for plate tectonic theory – a real mix of both physical and human geography.

Although we can't visit an active volcano, students will have the chance to show their knowledge in a more creative way next half term by constructing a geologically accurate composite or shield volcano in a traditional papier mâché way or by using programmes such as Minecraft. Students present their methods and the features to their peers and presenting skills are another skill that we like to introduce at this stage.

- How to support your young person

There are so many great programmes to watch including the Volcano Live programme <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bLDXgde1Tpg>

- Stretch and challenge

There is a TedEd on volcanoes here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LQwZwKS9RPs> which introduces lots of key terms to stretch your knowledge. If an online quiz is more your style then check out Seterra here <https://www.geoguessr.com/vgp/3047> which has lots of interactive geography location quizzes to have a go at.

History

- What is coming up next half term:

Year 8 will be completing their unit on how William conquered England and will be beginning their next unit on Why the English fought the English (English Civil War)

- How to support your young person

Students will be completing a factual test on how William conquered England, please encourage your young person to create a large mind map on the events of 1066, rebellions against William, castles, the Feudal System and the Domesday book in preparation for this. These revision notes can be kept safe to be used in the summer for their end of year exam.

- Stretch and challenge

Students could begin reading around their next topic, this website offer some good information:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zk4cwmn>

MFL

- What is coming up next half term:

Year 8 students will sit their first assessments in MFL after half-term. These will be Listening and Reading this term. Each teacher will give the students dates for the assessments in their classes.

- How to support your young person

Here is some ideas to help our students at home, on the school website

<https://www.poyntonhigh.org.uk/site/data/files/users/27/415D03EFA49B576368846506987CE847.pdf?pid=180>

- Stretch and challenge activity

Sign up to Duolingo, if you haven't done so already, in French or Spanish. Try and keep a 7 days streak over half-term. Can you complete the November challenge?

We have had another great Poynton Week of Languages! Thank you to all the Year 8 students who have entered the word hunt and the linguistics activities. Our annual Bake-off competition was also a huge success with a great number of entries. We had 2 days of bake sales and raised over £220 for MacMillan nurses!

Product Design

This half term started with students looking at Health and Safety in Product Design and how to be safe in the workshop. This is a re-cap from Year 7 and has enabled students to recall information that they learnt last year.

Students this half term have been focussing on the Soapbox Challenge based on the Soapbox Derby. Students have come up with a range of design ideas for their Soapbox and then have worked in teams to come up with their final design. Students will then go home and come back to school with a range of modelling materials to create their vehicle.

After half term students will continue to make these and then prepare to race their vehicles.

PE

Next Half Term

- Students will change the activity that they are on. Activities include netball, fitness, gymnastics, rugby, table tennis, badminton and dance.
- Our extra-curricular activities are as follows:



PHS PE After School Activities 2024



Half Term 2

All pupils welcome to attend any PE extra-curricular club.

Make sure you have your full PE kit to take part in after-school clubs

| Day | Activity | Time | Location |
|-----------|------------------------------------|---------------|------------------------------|
| Monday | Netball Training (ALL YEARS) (AKE) | 3.15pm—4.15pm | Leisure Centre / Hard Courts |
| | Boys Football Training (ALL YEARS) | 3.15pm—4.15pm | Field |
| Tuesday | Year 9 Dance Club (CLH) | 3.15pm—4.15pm | Dance Studio |
| | Basketball (ALL YEARS) (KAS) | 3.15pm—4.15pm | Leisure Centre |
| Wednesday | Year 8 Dance Club | 3.15pm—4.15pm | Dance Studio |
| | Year 7 Netball Training (AKE) | 3.15pm—4.15pm | Hard Courts |
| | Netball Fixtures (AKE) | Tbc | Teams will receive info |
| Thursday | Badminton (ALL YEARS) (CEW) | 3.15pm—4.15pm | Leisure Centre |
| | Girls Football (JLH) | 3.15pm—4.15pm | Field |
| | Year 7 Dance Club | 3.15pm—4.15pm | Dance Studio |
| | Rugby (ALL YEARS) (CME) | 3.15pm—4.15pm | Field |
| | CNAT Study Hour | 3.15pm—4.15pm | Room 7 |

How to support your young person

- Encourage them to attend an extracurricular club
- Encourage them to take part in exercise out of school
- Encourage them to pack PE kit in school bag the night before (and label all items of PE kit)

Stretch and Challenge

- Do 30 minutes of exercise per day for example, dog walk, run, football etc.

Computing

Year 8 students have started the year by studying Networks, discussing topics such as the difference between the World Wide Web and the Internet. After half term, students will move onto learning how to code using Small Basic. This unit will be assessed, students will receive feedback and will be expected to act upon this feedback.

- Stretch and Challenge

Students could be encouraged to download Small Basic <https://smallbasic-publicwebsite.azurewebsites.net/> and or Python <https://www.python.org/> They could spend some time over the holidays familiarising themselves with the software in preparation for the next half term.

Extra-Curricular

The full extra-curricular activity timetable link...

Message from Miss Holyland

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

You can apply for nursery-age children if they attend before and after lunch sessions at a local authority nursery school, nursery class or an Academy nursery if it has the same Ofsted number as the primary school.

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

Equipment Reminder

- 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 scissors and glue!

Updates from Around School

- **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 Western is meeting with representatives from each form in year 8 and year 9 with a different focus. This half term they discussed the school charter, looking at what the school is doing well and what we could do better. As a Year team we will use this to help us continue to support our young people.
- **Open Evening:**

I wanted to take the opportunity to thank all of our students involved in the open evening. It is a real testament to our school that so many students wanted to help. They are a real credit to our school and we are grateful for their help.

- **Promoting Positive Mental Health:**

We are continuing with our 'Wellbeing Wednesday' fortnightly form time activities, giving our students a chance to practice some mindfulness as well as educating them about the importance of looking after their own wellbeing and how to do this. We strive to promote positive mental health and mentally healthy practices with our students.

Well done once again to all of the students for making such a great start to this academic year. A final thanks you and well done on such a brilliant term. Have a lovely and restful half term break and we look forward to welcoming you all back on Monday 4th November.

If you have any queries about anything school related, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Thank you for your continued support.

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