



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 the Year 9 students again 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

Students have spent the first half term studying a scheme of work named 'Big Ideas'; in this we explore critical issues such as gender and race through fiction. The students are working towards an English Literature essay about the novel *The Hate U Give* and one an English Language creative short story.

How to support your young person

We encourage all students to read for pleasure in their own time, and encouraging reading is the most effective way to support your child's English progress. Use <https://schoolreadinglist.co.uk/category/reading-lists-for-ks3-pupils/>; it's a great resource for discovering new YA fiction.

All Y9 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:

Long Reads

- To Kill a Mockingbird, Harper Lee
- I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings, Maya Angelou

Short Read

- A Blood Condition by Kayo Chingonyi (poetry)

Visit

- The People's History Museum in Manchester <https://phm.org.uk/>

Maths

This is what is coming up next term

After half term students will be continuing this theme of geometry by constructing shapes and loci followed by number topics.

How to support your young person










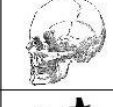




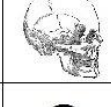
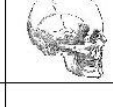
Students should be getting regular written homework and work on Dr Frost Maths <http://drfrostmaths.com> This is the online platform for maths homework. Students can complete tasks set by their teacher, but also do some independent practice to help prepare them for the work to come. Click on the Start 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.

Just before half term there is assessment to show us how much students have learned since being in Year 9. 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.

				14
				
				
				10
	4	2		

Science

This half term students in Y9 have been studying the following topics:

Biology- Cells

Chemistry- Basic Chemistry

Physics- Energy.

They will have a test on these topics in November. To prepare for this students should revise the material in their exercise books and use the checklists on google classroom. Students also have access to Seneca which they can use independently to consolidate their learning of topics.

- Challenge activities:

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

Biology: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yBfGRqVbJjk> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WsZS4RCWpcE>

Chemistry: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WohAAJlm9fw> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GWOHVstUB1Y>

Physics: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JGwcDCeYRY> o further reading:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nbXXFtF8Lzs>

Religious Studies

This is what is coming up next term

Year 9 will start looking at Ethics and will have a visit from the youth workers from some of the different churches in Poynton.

How to support your young person

To support with this, parents/carers can encourage their young person to start thinking about stories in the news, so they can begin building opinions about what they think is right and wrong within the world.

Stretch and Challenge

Read a different story on BBC news every day for a week to help build their knowledge on current events.

Geography

Our year 9 geographers have started the term superbly with a topic that both interests them and challenges their perceptions.

This is what is coming up next term

Next term we are continuing our studies of global population growth and the issues – both positive and negative, that affect areas of our world that are experiencing rapid population growth but also those experiencing ageing populations. This is in the context of the idea of a development gap between the world's richest countries and those who are catching up and the causes of this gap. This unit involves lots of data analysis which of course in geographical terms is always changing.

How to support your young person

Discuss global issues with your young person and engage with any topics such as population growth as shown by some of these links here <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/topics/c34jj3xmn41>

Stretch and challenge task

There are many ways to extend learning in this topic from the brilliant Dollar Street <https://www.gapminder.org/dollar-street> where photos are used as data to look at the world. This topic brings together the work covered in our Africa unit in year 7 as well as the Global Superpowers understanding of year 8.

History

What is coming up next half term:

Year 9 will be continuing with How World War One was fought and will be preparing for their next assessment on the Treaty of Versailles.

How to support your young person

There is a wealth of resources available on World War One to help widen student understanding, BBC bitesize has excellent resources and locally the Imperial War Museum at Salford Quays is an excellent place to visit to broaden student understanding of conflict in the 20th century.

Stretch and Challenge:

Students could research family members who fought in WW1 and bring that information into school to share with their teachers and class mates.

MFL

What is coming up next half term

Year 9 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

A PHS guide to MFL for parents –here are some ideas to help our students at home, on the school website, [A PHS guide to MFL for parents](#)

Stretch and challenge:

UKLO puzzles: if you enjoy problem solving, have a go at some of these breakthrough language puzzles. Click on the link to download them from the UK Linguistics Olympiad website

NLC competition: Do you see yourself becoming the next 007? GCHQ are running their National Language Competition in November. Last year some of our students became North-West champions! Here's the link to the video explaining the competition and how to access some of the practice activities. Mr Farrell will set up some sessions for anyone interested after half-term. Watch out for messages on the student bulletin!

Product Design

This year, students do two lessons a fortnight of Product Design. This enables us to do a range of projects throughout the year so that the students get a real flavour of the subject before their GCSE option choices.

This half term students have started to design their passive amplifier and to come up with their own individual design idea.

Next half term students will begin to make their passive amplifier using a range of tools and equipment in the workshop. Depending on the student's teacher, those students who have finished the mini NEA project will do a range of design and make tasks looking at smart materials.

Computing

Year 9 students have started the year by being introduced to the Adobe suite, improving their skills in both Adobe Illustrator and Photoshop. After half term, we will be moving onto programming, using Python. We will start by looking at strings and integers and move onto selection and iteration. This unit of work will be assessed, students will receive feedback that they will be expected to act upon.

Over the half term, 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.

The computing overview can be found on the Poynton High website, if you would like to familiarise yourself with it and further support your young person.

PE

What is coming up 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 extra curricular 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.

Extra-Curricular

The full extra-curricular activity timetable link...

<https://www.phs.cheshire.sch.uk/page/?title=Extra+Curricular+Activities+and+School+Trips&pid=149>

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

- Due to the current circumstances, we are unable to lend equipment to the students this year.
- Students need to bring the following equipment to school with them everyday:
 - 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. The Year page on Google Classroom has some advice and information for our students.

Well done once again to all of the students for making such a great start to this academic year. A final thank 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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