



Poynton High School Year 11 Parent and Carer Bulletin – October 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Year 11 have made a fantastic start to this academic year. 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 after the half term break 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. Our website contains lots of practical support for both yourself and your young person regarding revision techniques and strategies. The booklet linked below contains details of the revision techniques your young person has been looking at in school.

<https://www.phs.cheshire.sch.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=1051&type=pdf>

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

The presentation from the Year 11 information evening is linked here:

<https://www.poyntonhigh.org.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=1442&type=pdf>

Year 11 students will be sitting their mock exams next half term. I will be sending out more information regarding the mock exams.

Each Tuesday there is a Year 11 Study drop in session in room 38 where students can come to do their own revision and homework. Miss Dovey will be there to support them with their revision. This will run 3:25-4:15pm. Also running on a Tuesday in room 34 is a KS4 Welfare drop in session where students can drop in to speak to Miss Hollingworth if they have any welfare concerns. This will run 3:15-3:45pm.

Important dates

- Mock Speaking Exams: 21/11/24 –28/11/24
- Mock Exams: 02/12/24 –19/12/24
- Parents Evening: 23/01/25
- Mock Exams: 24/02/25 –28/02/25
- GCSE Exams: 08/05/25 –25/06/25
- Leavers Day and Prom: 27/06/25

Student voice

At Poynton High School we value our students and want them to have the opportunity to share their views. Each half term Miss Dovey is meeting with representatives from each form in year 11 with a different focus. This half term they discussed anti-bullying, 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.

PHS Sixth Form Open Evening

The Sixth Form Open Evening is taking place on **Thursday 14th November 2023 from 5.30 p.m. to 8.00 p.m.** This event will enable you to find out what our successful Sixth Form offers students and we hope that we will see you and your young person at the evening.

English

Year 11 English Language term 1: Perspectives

Perspective – a writer’s attitude towards a subject – is an important concept for GCSE English Language. You need not only to be able to recognise it, but also to show understanding of *how* it is conveyed through language and structure.

This term therefore begins with two short collections of texts which give varying perspectives on the themes of gender and place, and also help inform your historical and cultural understanding for GCSE English Literature.

Perspectives on gender is a collection of texts which ranges from Robert Baden-Powell’s early-20th century ideas of masculinity in *Scouting for Boys*, through to contemporary voices such as Jameela Jamil.

Perspectives on place includes extracts from J.B Priestley’s *An English Journey*, which gives an insight into his views on class which is invaluable for GCSE English Literature.

As you study these texts, you will also develop your own writing, emulating these writers and honing your skills.

Following this, you will then move into more exam-specific practice, learning to demonstrate what you can do more independently and with time constraints. This culminates in your mock examinations, where you will sit a full GCSE English Language Paper 2.

Year 11 English Language, term 1			
Key learning	Key skills	Concepts and vocabulary	Reading strategies
Familiarity with the perspectives and methods used in the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Scouting for boys</i>• <i>The good wife’s guide</i>• <i>Tell him</i>• <i>An English Journey</i>• ‘Bradford’ Familiarity with question types and exam board requirements/advice for GCSE English Language Paper 2.	Writing with clear perspective. Writing with independence, imagination, and sophistication. Purposeful practice of reading questions for Paper 2. Purposeful practice of writing questions for Paper 2.	Language methods , including: word choice, semantic field, imagery. Structural methods , including: focus, shift, beginning and end, perspective. Opinion writing: thesis, topic sentences, language features.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Finding cues and clues in questions (pre-reading).• Reading for speed and accuracy (exam practice).• Independent reading.
Links Builds on: Builds towards: GCSE English Language Paper 2 A Level Literature NEA, e.g. <i>The Catcher in the Rye</i> , <i>The Bell Jar</i> . A Level Media and English Language, where critical theories are applied to texts.			

Year 11 English Literature term 1

Year 11 begins with a final visit to the AQA Power and Conflict poetry anthology, as we study poetry cluster 3. This begins with poems which deal with Nature. An extract from Wordsworth’s ‘Prelude’ is the starting point, an account of a formative moment in the spiritual growth of the young poet, where the night-time theft of a boat leads to unexpected and unimaginable consequences.

Following this you study other linked poems, including:

- ‘Storm on the Island’ by Seamus Heaney.
- ‘Kamikaze’ by Beatrice Garland.
- ‘The Emigree’ by Carol Rumens

- ‘Poppies’ by Jane Weir

The final point of this journey is ‘Tissue’ by Imtiaz Dharker, a poem which formed the preface to her 2006 collection *The Terrorist At My Table*. It sets the scene for an exploration of fundamentalism and power.

At this point you begin preparing for GCSE English Literature Paper 2, revising and extending your knowledge of *An Inspector Calls*, and developing your academic essay writing style.

This culminates in your mock examinations, where you sit a full GCSE English Literature Paper 2.

Year 11 English Literature Term 1		
Key learning	Key skills	Concepts and vocabulary
<p>The content of poetry cluster 3: <i>'Prelude' by William Wordsworth</i> <i>'Storm on the Island' by Seamus Heaney.</i> <i>'Kamikaze' by Beatrice Garland.</i> <i>'The Emigree' by Carol Rumens</i> <i>'Poppies' by Jane Weir</i> <i>'Tissue' by Imtiaz Dharker</i></p> <p>The characters and themes of <i>An Inspector Calls</i> including: • Characters. • The significance of the settings. • Priestley's commentary on class. • Gender representation.</p>	<p>Analysing the use of dramatic and poetic methods.</p> <p>Writing in a formal, academic style.</p>	<p>Poetic methods including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Form and structure, e.g. meter, patterns of rhyme. • Sound, e.g. alliteration, assonance, sibilance. • Imagery, e.g. metaphor, simile, personification. <p>Dramatic methods including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How the drama is set up and resolved in the opening and ending of the play • Choice of settings. • How characters are established, and how characters are presented: actions and motives for them; what they say and think; relationships between characters. • Speech: dialogue, soliloquy, asides.
<p>Links Builds on: Your study of poetry in KS3, and in KS4. The Unseen Poetry component of GCSE English Literature Paper 2</p> <p>Builds towards: A-Level English Literature 'Elements of Crime' unit. GCSE English Literature Paper 2.</p>		

Maths

Students should be beginning to prepare for their upcoming mock exams next half term. They will sit two papers, one calculator and one non-calculator. It is important at this stage to ensure students have access to a scientific calculator. As this is a GCSE mock examination, all topics over year 10 and year 11 will be assessed. As we move towards the end of the GCSE course there will be opportunity to revisit previous topics in preparation for this. From these assessments we will be able to give students a mock grade, very much like they will be receiving in the summer exam series.

Year 11 continue to be set three pieces of homework over their two week cycle. One piece being a written task, another piece is a Dr Frost task and the third piece a revision task as part of their ongoing independent revision; the use of Dr Frost Maths or Seneca Learning is recommended for these. Once all of the data is collected for the maths mocks we will input their individual data into the AQA tracking programme which will then generate individual revision lists for the students. Students should use this, along with other areas they may have identified themselves, to focus their revision where it is needed most. In addition to using Dr Frost, students should use revision guides to assist with their revision. If you missed the opportunity to purchase a revision guide for your young person last year, they are available to order directly here:

Higher: <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Maths-Higher-Revision-Practice-Collins/dp/0008112525>

Foundation: <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Maths-Foundation-Revision-Practice-Collins/dp/0008112541>

Science

Subject	This half term	Next half term
<p style="text-align: center;">Biology</p>	<p>Separate Science Students: Are completing their topic on Coordination and Control and soon moving onto their next topic on Genetics</p> <p>Combined Science Students: Are starting the Inheritance, Variation and Evolution topic and will learn about how genes are inherited</p> <p>All: Completed test 1 on paper 2 content stretching back to Y9. They should have identified targets to improve and use revision guides to work on these.</p>	<p>All: Will be following a Chunked Revision programme using past exam questions to prepare for their Paper 1 December Mock Examinations</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Chemistry</p>	<p>Separate Science Students: Have evaluated and set targets based on the recent test. They have finished off and revised the topic of rates of reaction and began to study organic chemistry.</p> <p>Combined Science Students: Have completed test 1 on part of the paper 2 topic rates of reaction. They should have identified targets to improve and use revision guides and SENECA to work on these. They will complete their study of this topic by the end of the half term.</p>	<p>Separate Science Students: Students will continue to study organic chemistry. They will also begin using chunked revision to help to prepare for their Paper 1 December mock examinations</p> <p>Combined Science Students: Will be following a Chunked Revision programme using past exam questions and SENECA to help them prepare for their Paper 1 December mock examinations</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Physics</p>	<p>Separate Science Students: Have completed and revised the Forces topic, including sitting and receiving feedback on a test. They are now moving on to the Waves topic, which looks at various types of waves and how they interact in our world.</p> <p>Combined Science Students: Have completed and revised the Forces topic, including sitting and receiving feedback on a test. They are now moving on to the Waves topic, which looks at various types of waves and how they interact in our world.</p> <p>All:</p>	<p>Separate Science Students: Students will continue their studies of Waves, which includes a Required Practical to measure the speed of waves formed on water or on a string. They will also begin using chunked revision to help them prepare for their Paper 1 December mock examinations</p> <p>Combined Science Students: Students will continue their studies of Waves, which includes a Required Practical to measure the speed of waves formed on water or on a string. They will also begin using chunked revision to help them prepare for their Paper 1 December mock examinations</p>

	Completed test 1 on paper 2 content. They have received feedback on this test, including an in-depth focus on scale drawing for Higher tier students and graph skills for Foundation tier students.	
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How to support your young person in Science:

We would really appreciate your support in encouraging your son/daughter to complete these tasks. These include:

Chunked revision

All students will be set revision tasks/past paper questions to complete for Biology, Chemistry and Physics. These will be set in designated weekly 'chunks' starting the week before October half term (21st October). 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 December mock exams. Student should revise the set topics each week, complete the revision activity and the exam questions to apply their knowledge and practice exam technique.

Seneca

Seneca is a free online resource which can be used to support students in their preparation for the December mocks. Students will be set a small task on Seneca. Information regarding how to log in will be uploaded for all students onto Google Classroom.

Stretch and challenge Science tasks

Below are some useful website links for any students wishing to extend their knowledge of topics covered this half-term:

'secret life of waves' <https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x8kgxgi>

'The race to sequence the human genome' <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AhsIF-cmoQQ>

Religious Studies

Students have made a positive and successful start to the Year 11 course. They have been learning about some of the complex ideas within Buddhism and the Dharma, rebirth and nirvana. These are very challenging ideas, which students have tackled with curiosity and an open mind.

Students do not need to purchase published revision guides, but if they do want to refer to other resources, then the link below will guide you to the correct revision materials for this course.

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/AQA-GCSE-Religious-Studies-Christianity/dp/0198422857>

After half term students will be spending time with their class teachers revising for the forthcoming mock examinations and studying Religion and Life, one of the topics on the Thematic Studies paper.

History

What is coming up next half term in History:

Year 11 will be completing their unit on the American West and beginning their final unit of the GCSE course, this unit focuses on the Reigns of King Richard and King John.

How can you support your young person in History:

As you will be aware, students will be sitting their mock examination in December, there will be 2 History papers, one on the American West and one on the USA: Conflict at Home and Abroad. Please encourage your young person to continue to complete their weekly revision homework to help prepare for these mock examinations and make revision notes, in the form of mind maps, revision clocks and flash cards.

Stretch and Challenge History task:

Students should try to complete past papers as part of the preparation for their mock examinations. Our exam board is edexcel and the papers they will be sitting in the mocks are on the American West and the USA: Conflict at Home and Abroad. Links to past papers can be found here:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/history-2016.coursematerials.html#filterQuery=category:Pearson-UK:Category%2FSpecification-and-sample-assessments>

Geography

Our year 11 geographers are approaching an exciting time of year when they consider their next steps after GCSEs and the topic that we are studying at the moment links superbly not only into A level Geography but also into other subjects such as Business Studies and Economics. Our Changing Economic World challenges students to understand how countries such as India are developing rapidly but also the changing economic face of the United Kingdom in the last 100 years and potentially into the future.

This is what is coming up next term in Geography:

Next term we will move onto the Resource Management topic of paper 2– how food, water and energy are scarce resources in some areas of the world whilst other have a surplus.

This is how you can support your young person in Geography:

The BBC Bitesize website is now much more closely aligned with the exam content <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zg93ycw> and this enables students in the Preparation stage of their revision to ensure that their notes are detailed enough for the performance stage – and there are tests on the BBC Bitesize to help with this stage as well.

Geography stretch and challenge task for over half term:

Ensuring that students practise their maths skills that are also found in their geography lessons and exams is also important at this stage and the link here <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zyhd6fr/revision/1> is a really useful one with clips and texts to allow practise as well as the teachers using past

MFL

What is coming up in MFL?

Year 11 students have completed their first written assessments this half-term. These give staff a better idea of where students are at after the summer break and an indication of which tier they will sit in the December mock exams.

Next half-term, we will concentrate on preparing for the mock exams. They will follow the full format of the exams and will cover all the GCSE topics:

- **Reading** [25%], **Listening** [25%] and **Writing** [25%] will be assessed under exam conditions **during the calendared mock exams**
- **Speaking** [25%] (these will take place between the **21st and 28th November**. Each teacher will give individual appointments to their students.)

In the mock exam, students will be entered at either Foundation (grades 1-5) or Higher tier(grades 3-9).

Supporting your young person in German or Spanish:

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

MFL stretch and challenge activity over half-term:

Practise your speaking questions: record them on your phone, ask a family member or a friend to ask you some of the questions, even your cat!

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 groups have just finished their finance unit and completed their end of unit finance test. After half term we will be starting to look at business operations, starting with the different types of production. We will also be focussing on application skills as we prepare for the year 11 mocks in December.

Year 11 students have been set weekly revision homework to complete. You could support your young person by reviewing this with them, testing them on definitions tasks and asking them to explain topics they have created their revision notes for.

Business stretch and challenge task for over half term: Have a look at what the government is planning in their budget on October 30th. Think about how this might impact businesses and what the consequences for businesses will be.

Computer Science

Year 11s have started the year by recapping networks and network security. They have progressed onto looking at advanced programming techniques, in preparation for starting their Programming Project.

With regards to programming at home, students have been recommended to install Python <https://www.python.org/> Lots of stretch and challenge activities can be found in the tutorials and guides.

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

CNAT iMedia

Since returning to school in September, Year 11 students have been working on their Interactive Digital Presentation unit. They have been learning how to design and create media assets which will engage the target audience. This unit of work will be completed by January, allowing plenty of time to prepare for the examination unit.

Students are not allowed to work on their coursework at home. We therefore encourage the students to attend after school catch up sessions, either Wednesdays in rm 29 or Thursdays in rm 28, where their class teacher will be available to offer guidance and support.

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

Art

This term, our Year 11 Art students have been working hard to complete the artist research stage of their Portraits project. They have also recently begun to develop their design ideas for the project and have been set a double page task to complete over the half term.

Next term, students will continue to apply their artist knowledge and their practical skills in order to develop three design ideas over double pages. They will then select their strongest design to use to produce a final piece. This will conclude their coursework unit, which accounts for 60% of the overall grade.

We continue to run lunchtime (every day) and after school 'catch up' club on Thursdays (3.15-4.15pm in room 79). Students who fall behind on their coursework will be asked to attend these sessions.

Photography

The Year 11 students have been continuing their exploration of the theme 'Distorted Portraits'. This project was started in the summer term and it has been developed through completing practical photoshoots on lighting patterns and physically distorting faces through different distortion surfaces. Student's have produced these distortions with various materials and props, including glass bottles, elastic bands, sellotape, pressing faces up against windows, using glass spheres and combinations of the above. Many thanks to the willing models who posed for some of these shots at home, your efforts were greatly appreciated and admired.

The next phase will be digitally distorting faces using Photoshop and other image editing software. Students will study the work of visual artists who use digital and physical collaging before tackling different techniques to produce interesting outcomes. There are many image editing apps available and students will be using different ones for different outcomes. They will be using a fragmented process in the production of distorted portraits by studying Brno Del Zhou, David Hockney and other relevant visual artists. There will be a research task to complete over the half term in readiness for this next stage.

Textiles

Year 11 Textiles have been focusing on their individual NEA projects with Mrs Mottram. They have made an excellent start to their NEA in which they are focusing on their chosen title from the examining board, AQA. Recently, students have been developing their ideas and we plan to be

making their products next term.

Students are encouraged to attend the catch – up sessions with Mrs Mottram after school every Wednesday in either room 54. These sessions are one hour long and will give students the opportunity to have one-to-one guidance for their individual projects.

A chunked theory plan will be on Google Classroom to aid students in their home revision. They have both a revision guide and work book which will be used for home learning tasks.

Food Preparation and Nutrition

To start this year, students have been working on their NEA (Non-Exam Assessment) 1 which is 15% of their final grade.

On 1st September 2024 the exam board, OCR, released the titles for the NEA 1. Each student has chosen their title and has created a written report based on this. As a part of this students have also conducted experiments to go alongside their written report.

As well as the NEA, students have also been going over the theory element of the course and finishing off the specification.

Next half term we will focus on revision and beginning to prepare for the mocks in December, finishing the NEA 1 and beginning the NEA 2 which will be released from the exam board on 1st November 24.

Students have been using the following help guide: <https://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/423464-food-investigation-task-1-student-guide.pdf>

Product Design

Students started their NEA (Non-exam assessment) which is 50% of their final GCSE grade before the Summer holiday. They have been continuing with this and the theory element of the course since starting back in September.

Students have been working hard on their NEA and are now onto their initial ideas which includes a sketch, using sketch up and a model of their design.

The NEA is time consuming and so students do need to be adding to this in their own time. There is a catch-up session available to all students on Wednesdays after school. I would highly recommend that students use this opportunity to catch up on any missing work.

Alongside the NEA, we have been continuing to work on the theory element of the course. Students have recently completed an assessment based on 'timbers' which is Section B of the paper. Students need to begin to start their revision resources and thinking of the 3 P's which are 'Performance, Preparation and Progress'.

It is suggested that students buy the Edexcel revision guide. Edexcel is our exam board so please make sure to buy the correct revision guide.

https://www.amazon.co.uk/My-Revision-Notes-Pearson-Technology/dp/1510480501/ref=sr_1_4?crd=3U0SJE5UA8KDU&keywords=edexcel+design+and+technology&qid=1697534544&prefix=edexcel+design+and+technology+%2Caps%2C3695&sr=8-4

Next half term we will continue with the NEA as well as working towards the mocks which will take place in December.

CNAT Sports Studies

Next half term:

Our year 11 students have made excellent progress in recent CNAT Sport Studies lessons. In the next term, we will be looking to finalise our coursework for the R185 Practical and Leadership performance in Sport unit. This unit will be a potential of 80 marks towards the students' final grades.

How you can support your young person:

You can support your young person by showing an interest in their current assignment (applying practice methods to improve their performance) and asking them about the action plan they are currently completing. You can also encourage their attendance to CNAT catch up club on Thursdays where necessary (this is not invitation only).

Task for over half term:

In order to stretch and challenge the students over the half term break, they can begin to look ahead to the R184 Contemporary Issues in Sport exam, and they can even purchase a revision guide here: [CNAT Sport Studies R184 Exam Revision Guide](#).

GCSE PE

Next half term:

The Year 11 GCSE cohort have recently completed the cardiovascular & respiratory systems and completed their most recent interleaving test at the end of the half term. This will be reviewed and then they will start the next section of Paper 1 which relates to physical training.

How you can support your young person:

You can support your young person by ensuring that they are accessing their Google Classroom page for GCSE PE as there are numerous resources on their that they can utilise to help with retention and retrieval.

Task for over half term:

A stretch and challenge activity over half term is to access the OCR website and complete past examination questions/papers. Students can complete full Paper 2 exams but will need to be mindful that they haven't completed all of Paper 1 content yet. This is the link to the OCR exam board webpage to access past papers <https://ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse/physical-education-j587-from-2016/assessment/>

Dance

Students have been busy working on their Performance Pieces and have nearly finished them all. They are now to research their Choreography ideas for practical lessons, Monday night after school is available for rehearsals. Their practical exam will be in March. They need to continue working on the written side of the paper as this is worth 40%, it is vital they use the PowerPoint to know and understand all the terminology of the specification.

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. Have a lovely and restful holiday and we will look forward to welcoming you all back on Monday 4th November.

Please contact us if there are any issues or if you have any questions at all.
Thank you for your continued support.

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