



Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope this bulletin finds you and your families safe and well. It has been a fantastic first term and the students have been brilliant. It has been a pleasure working with the Year 8 students again over the last seven 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 after Christmas.

Maths

Coming up next half term

Coming up after half-term, students will be moving onto Algebra by recapping what algebraic expressions are and the notation required. They will use these skills to expand and factorise expressions, form and solve equations and inequalities.

Students will have another assessment during the next half-term. It is an excellent opportunity for students to review what we have covered so far this year. One of many revision tools students can use are their knowledge organisers for each topic. These are sheets stuck in their exercise books which provides a concise and informative summary about the topic.

How you can support your young person

Students will have been introduced to the new online homework platform Sparx maths <https://selectschool.sparxmaths.uk/> Students will receive homework every week on a Wednesday, due for the following Wednesday. The homework is to take approximately an hour. Sparx uses an algorithm to provide a bespoke learning experience tailored to the user. The more questions answered, the better Sparx understands the user. This means homework questions are accessible for all users and every student can aim for 100%. Students can also complete additional practice on any topic they want using the “independent learning” section.

Stretch and challenge

Rudolph's nose flashes at 9:00pm and flashes once every 28 minutes.
Dasher's nose flashes at 9:00pm and flashes once every 16 minutes.
How long will it be before both noses again flash at the same time?



Tell your maths teacher the answer after half term for house points.

Science

Coming up next half term

Students have now started their second 3 topics of Year 8 and will continue working on these after Half term

8B2- Gas exchange and respiration

8C2- Reactions of metals

8P4 Electricity.

How you can support your young person

Each topic has a teacher marked assessment, providing students with written feedback on how they have performed. They will also be set a Google Classroom mini quiz for each topic which self-marks to give both them and staff instant feedback of how they have performed.

Students should have purchased a revision guide at the start of Y7, those that didn't were given another opportunity to buy one at the start of this academic year. If students have still not purchased one from us they can online using this link: <https://www.cgpbooks.co.uk/secondary-books/ks3/science/shs35-new-ks3-science-complete-revision>

Students also have access to Seneca, an online platform which is an excellent tool to help them revise and consolidate their knowledge and understanding. This is something they can use independently as well as completing any the assignments set by their teachers.

Stretch and challenge

Students could watch these videos on material they are covering in their current science topics:

8B2 Respiration <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nwz4EaO5H2Y>

8C2 Reactions of metals <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TpoFK58BPTk>

8P4 Electricity <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WUR4oAKqWHc>

Religious Studies

Coming up next half term

Next half term students will be learning about Hinduism and getting a better understanding of how Hindus view life, society and God.

How you can support your young person

To support with this, parents/carers can encourage their young person to start looking at the basic ideas of Hinduism and thinking about how they are different to religions like Christianity.

Stretch and Challenge

As a challenge they can see if they can find out and memorise 5 different Hindu gods/goddesses.

Geography

Our year 8 geographers have now completed their Restless earth topic with a focus on volcanic activity and the impacts of eruptions. This is a topic that we revisit and rebuild on at GCSE so don't forget those plate boundaries and how we structure our balanced longer answers!

Coming up next half term

Next term we move onto Global Superpowers and consider what makes a country a potential superpower and what are the opportunities for the population and the challenges that face groups of people who live there. We look at the physical and human geography of countries such as Brazil, Russia, India and China – learning more about the geography of these countries and their global significance.

How you can support your young person

The BBC Bitesize has regional studies for 3 of the areas (Russia, China and Brazil) here <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zf89cmn> which make for excellent additional reading. The programmes made by the documentary filmmaker Simon Reeve as he travels through Russia as also interesting watching <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/b096sbzx/russia-with-simon-reeve>

Stretch and challenge task

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VF-oY-hRUys> Christmas for us geographers can sometime feel as though there is a lot of waste for a short time experience. Watch this clip on how to have a more sustainable Christmas and make a poster (on the back of wrapping paper maybe?!) to show the main ways that we can have a more sustainable Christmas!

History

Coming up next half term

Year 8 students will be continuing with their 2nd unit on the English Civil War and this will include completing their second assessment of the year which will be on our key question of Why the English fought the English, students will prepare at home but will be completing their assessment in class.

How you can support your young person

In order to help prepare for this BBC bitesize has excellent resources on the English Civil War (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zk4cwmn>) which students could make use of.

Stretch and Challenge task

Why not research what Christmas was like in the 1500s and 1600s. This website would help you do this <https://www.hevercastle.co.uk/news/what-a-tudor-christmas-was-like/>

MFL

Coming up next half term

In Year 8, in French we will finish our unit on festivals, new year resolutions and planning a future trip. In German, we will finish the unit on media and start the next unit of work on healthy living

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

Stretch and challenge task

Why not watch a French or German film with subtitles

Food Preparation and Nutrition Textiles

During Year 8, Textiles and Food is split over the academic year. This means students will complete half of the year in Food and the second half of the year in Textiles or vice-versa.

In Food lessons students have been focusing on the following topics, food hygiene and modifying recipes for different groups. Practical's have included Bolognese, vegan curry, lasagne and a Christmas bake – festive flapjack.

Next term we will continue to work on skills through practical lessons. Please can I remind students that they must bring labelled containers big enough to take home their food products at the end of the day. If students have left their containers in the department please can these be collected at the start of term.

In Textiles we have been designing and developing a pencil case. Students have analysed existing products and have produced their pattern designing using adobe create. These are to be printed onto sublimation paper to be transferred to their pencil cases. After the Christmas break students will be focusing on using the sewing machine to construct their pencil cases.

Product Design

Depending on your young person's teacher; students have been focussing on the Soapbox Challenge or Pewter Casting

Soapbox Challenge

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. This formed part of students assessment.

Students have been able to go away and come back with a range of modelling materials which they have been using to create their model.

This half term students have been assessed on their Final Design.

Next term, students will continue to make these and then prepare to race their vehicles.

Pewter Casting



Students this half term have completed their metals theory and assessment. They have then moved onto designing their keyring and beginning to trace their idea onto MDF ready to cut. Next half term, students will finish cutting their MDF and begin creating their keyring through pouring the pewter into their cast.

PE

Next half term

- Students will change the activity that they are on. Activities include Dance, Orienteering, Gymnastics, Fitness, Rugby, Netball, Table Tennis, Badminton

- Our extra-curricular activities are as follows:

 PHS PE After School Activities 2025 			
Half Term 3			
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 (Year 7 Week 1) (AKE)	3.15pm—4.15pm	Leisure Centre / Hard Courts
	Netball Training (Year 8 and 9 Week 2) (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
	GCSE PE Revision	3.15pm—4.15pm	Room 7
Thursday	Badminton (Week 1 KS3, Week 2 KS4) (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 you can 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

Dance

All dance clubs have been working on pieces for our annual Dance Showcase which will take place on Friday 7th March starting at 6.00pm. Tickets will be available closer to the time. There will be a technical rehearsal periods 1-3 on the Friday ready for the evening performance.

Computing

Year 8 students have been introduced to Microsoft Small Basic. Small Basic is a programming language created specially to help students transition from block-based coding to text-based coding. This unit will be assessed, students will receive feedback and will be expected to act upon this feedback.

Coming up next half term

In the New Year, students will be working with Vector Graphics

Stretch and challenge

Over the Christmas holidays, students could be encouraged to download Photopea <https://www.photopea.com/> and or Animaker <https://www.animaker.com/> They could spend some time over the holidays familiarising themselves with this free software in preparation for the next half term.

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!

Exercise books

We would like to take this opportunity to stress the importance of ensuring your young person brings their exercise books to every lesson. It is an essential part of your students learning experience, they are much more than a space for writing, they serve as a vital tool that supports learning, organisation, and academic development. It is crucial that students bring their exercise book to every lesson to fully engage in their studies.

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 independent learning and revision skills. As a Year team we will use this to help us continue to support our young people. We are looking forward to presenting to our young people the actions we have taken following the student voice meetings this term.

Well done once again to our students on such a fantastic first term. Have a lovely and restful break over Christmas and we wish all of our students and their families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We look forward to welcoming you all back on Monday 6th January.

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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