



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 9 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 after half-term

Students are moving onto Number topics. Students will be looking at solving problems with integers, decimals, fractions and directed number. This will be followed by an in-depth study of percentages. Students are building their understanding by looking at percentage change and reverse percentages in real life contexts. They will also learn how to use their calculator to efficiently perform these calculations.

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

Santa sleigh travels 5×10^5 miles in 10 hours. What is Santa's average speed in miles per hour? What about in km per minute?
(5 miles \approx 8 km)
How long will it take Santa to travel 80,000 miles?



Tell your maths teacher the answer after Christmas for house points

Science

Coming up after half term

Students have now started their second topics of Year 9 and they will continue with these topics after half term

Biology: Photosynthesis and Adaptations

Chemistry- Atomic structure

Physics- Particle model of Matter

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.

How you can support your young person

Students 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 task

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

Biology: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cBCKedXdFeE>

Chemistry: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fPnwBITSmgU>

Physics: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HLDrvFTNbaE>

Religious Studies

Coming up next half term

Next half term students will be looking at religion and technology and how changes in technology might affect the way we talk about God, faith and what it means to be human.

How you can support your young person

Parents/carers can encourage their young person to start thinking about how dependant we are on technology in our daily lives.

Stretch and challenge task

As a challenge they can think about how technology might change our ideas about what is right and wrong.

Geography

Coming up next term

We will be moving on to study our Risky World, learning about risks that face people around the world such as malaria before a more in depth study of the USA and the hazards that face people living in locations such

as 'Tornado Alley' and California with its susceptibility to wildfires and earthquakes. Our students learn about the cause and impacts of such events as well as how we can try to mitigate them now and in the future.

How you can support your young person

This is also an exciting time as students make their GCSE choices and we aim to help them make informed decisions with the help and advice of our A level geographers who will visit lessons and answer all questions that our students might have about the GCSE course.. There is so much to enhance our students learning from the documentary filmmaker Simon Reeve who travels south through the Americas <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/m00095p0/the-americas-with-simon-reeve> or the ever brilliant Weather Channel on YouTube who make some of the BEST clips about hazards in the USA such as this one here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0cOQBQqaGTw> which shows the impacts of a tornado. What exciting times ahead!

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 9 students will be learning about the Rise of the Hitler and the Holocaust in the new year, and they will also be completing their second assessment of the year on the Treaty of Versailles.

How you can you support your young person

There are plenty of resources available to develop students' knowledge on these topics, BBC bitesize is a good place to start researching the Rise of the Nazis.

Stretch and challenge task.

Students could research Christmas during World War to find out more about the Christmas Truce. A good website to use it <https://www.iwm.org.uk/history/the-real-story-of-the-christmas-truce>

MFL

Coming up after half term

In Year 9, in German we will start our new unit on free time. In Spanish, the next unit of work will be on healthy living. We are also very much looking forward to the German and Spanish exchanges starting in the spring term.

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 Spanish or German film with subtitles over the Christmas holidays? Maybe try some Christmas recipes from Spain or Germany too.

Food Preparation and Nutrition and Textiles

In Food lessons students have been focusing on the topic of raising agents. Practical's have included three types of bread making and a Christmas product.

Next term we will continue to work on raising agents but focus on manual methods such as whisking and sieving. Practical lesson will include swiss roll and Victoria sponge.

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. It may also be beneficial to bring in a baking tray and/ or Victoria sponge tins to save time on washing up during busy practical lessons.

In Textiles we have been designing and developing a bucket hat, tote bag or bum bag. Students have been recalling how to set up and use the sewing machine. After the Christmas break students will be focusing producing their own pattern to cut out their fabric pieces. Where possible, students may want to bring in their own fabric for this product. We would encourage students to upcycle any old garments for example, jeans.

Product Design

This half term students have completed the timbers theory which linked to their assessment. This has given students the understanding and knowledge of what materials they will be working with when designing and making their own passive amplifier.

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 students teacher, those students who have finished the mini NEA project will do a range of design and make tasks looking at smart materials.

Computing

Coming up next half term

Students will move onto 2D Animation in the New Year.

How you can support your young person

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.

PE

Coming up after 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 activity

- 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.

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 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!

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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