



Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope this bulletin finds you and your families safe and well. As ever, the Year 8s have thrown themselves in to everything that Poynton High School has to offer, from the engagement and enthusiasm in the classroom, to sporting practices and fixtures as well as house competitions, music practices and extra-curricular clubs. The Year 8s have made real progress already this year and it has been a real pleasure to work with them again. Inside this bulletin you will find updates from different subject areas:

English

Next half term: Students will examine both fiction - looking at Arthur Conan Doyle's novella 'The Man with the Twisted Lip' – and non-fiction, which focuses on local history.

How you can support your young person: All homework assignments for the year group are set centrally on Google Classroom. We are moving towards all students submitting work digitally; if homework is done in exercise books, we are asking for pupils to take a photo and upload the file to the Assignment.

Stretch and challenge: Challenge your young person to get involved with World Book Day – an announcement will be posted on Google Classroom as we get closer to Thursday 6th March!

Maths

Next half term: Students will be performing calculations with fractions, decimals & percentages with and without a calculator. This is followed by another number topic called standard form where students learn how to write very large and very small numbers in an easy to read format. This skill is used a lot within scientific fields, for example measuring the size of a human cell or measuring the distance between Earth and the Sun.

Students finished the term with a recent assessment to check their understanding of the topics covered this term. This gives us an opportunity to review their learning and what we need to address. There may be some set movements after this test.

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: Google the following - Transum Pancake day, can you complete all the levels by flipping the pancakes? Bring in a screenshot of the finished level to get House points from your teachers

Science

This half term students have completed their second science test and have started their third 3 topics of Y8, these are:

8B4- Plants

8C4- Reactions of acids

8P1- Sound

Students have been set a TMA (teacher marked assessment) on each of these topics, providing them with written feedback on how they have performed. They have also been set a GC form mini quiz for each topic which self-marks to give both them and staff instant feedback of how they have performed.

Next half term: After Feb half term students will complete the remaining lessons of these topics. In preparation for their end of year exams in June we will complete 6 revision lessons with each class. We will provide students with different revision materials to help teach them different ways to revise. These will include mind maps/points tests/ Q&A/ Que cards etc. More information will follow on this before May half term.

How you can support your young person: Students should have purchased a revision guide at the start of Y7. All of these topics are in there and it is an excellent revision tool and resource to help them consolidate. Students will also be set assignments on 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 the assignments set by their teachers.

Stretch and challenge: Extra reading:

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

8B4: Plants <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kHVqBZ9FTKQ>

8C4: Reactions of acids <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n-UN3c44ljl> and https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mk_9G11BXKc

8P1 Sound <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t3so3MdVRbU> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x9XOueQRpAA>

Religious Studies

Next Half term: We will be looking at 'religion, art and culture' and asking what affect religion has on modern day culture, such as music, art and even TV.

How you can support your young person: Parents/carers can encourage their young person to start thinking about what religious ideas can be seen in every day music, TV, film and art.

Stretch and Challenge: As a challenge they can think about their current reading book and see if they can identify any religious beliefs or ideas within the story.

Geography

This term our geography students in year 8 have been studying our Global Superpowers unit of work considering what it is that makes a country a superpower and looking in more detail at China and India before showing their understanding in their second assessment based on China– the discussions in class have showed excellent awareness of issues and understanding from our students.

Next Half Term: We shall be studying 2 more potential superpowers in Russia and Brazil – the green superpower and again considering the ways in which we might consider each a superpower or not!

How you can support your young person: The BBC Bitesize website has useful links to develop their understanding further such as this link <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zydk4xs> it was evident that those students who had completed the tasks here were able to improve their performance in this assessment. Well done!

Stretch and challenge: We always recommend that our students watch BBC Newsround if they miss it in school but there are also programmes looking at our great world from David Attenborough documentaries to the Russia series from Simon Reeve <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b096sc3z/russia-with-simon-reeve-series-1-episode-1>

History

Next half term: Year 8 have begun the important topic of ‘Was the British Empire a Force for Good?’ and we have begun that topic by looking at Britain’s role in the slave trade. Students will have a factual test on the British Empire before Easter.

How you can support your young person: Please encourage students to create revision material to help them with the British Empire test. This could be flash cards, spider diagrams, or factual quizzes.

Stretch and Challenge: Students have shown a particular interest in the British Empire and may want to further their knowledge by researching the slave trade by using websites like bbc bitesize, schoolhistory or even the national archives.

MFL

Next half term: In French our next unit is about holidays, and using the past tense. In German, we are continuing our work on healthy living.

How you can support your young person: 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: Over the half-term holidays, why not prepare a “fictitious” trip to France or find out about German restaurants and typical cuisine of different regions?

Computing

Next half term: Students have been introduced to Inkscape this half term. They have enjoyed using this Graphics software, learning all about the different tools. Students will continue to build their skills and knowledge in this after the half term.

How you can support your young person: Over the half term holidays, students could be encouraged to download Python <https://www.online-python.com/> They could spend some time over the holidays familiarising themselves with this free software

Textiles and Food and Nutrition

Next half term: 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. Next term students will be swapping subjects. This may mean that they will have a different teacher. All changes will be added to Google Classroom

Please be aware that our scheme of work in year 8 Food Preparation and Nutrition focusses on adapting dishes to students’ dietary needs and wants. We have a significant focus in year 8 on allergies, vegetarianism and veganism and students are taught how to adapt the recipe lists provided. Therefore, some dishes such as ‘meatballs’ are suitable for all students but we are challenging them to adapt the recipe to their needs and wants.

In Textiles students will complete their pencil cases and next term new groups will begin the research and design process for their pencil case project. Students will be asked to complete a mood board focusing on patterns in the first term. This will be used as their base line assessment and to inspire their pencil case designs.

How you can support your young person: By supporting your young person to be prepared for practical lessons, ensure they have all ingredients and containers big enough to take their products home in. We will no longer be able to provide disposable containers. If your young person qualifies for pupil premium funding a container will be provided but this must be brought back to school for each practical lesson.

Product Design



Next Half term: Depending on your young person’s teacher; students have been focussing on the Soapbox Challenge or Pewter Casting. Next half term students will switch projects.

Soapbox Challenge - Students this half term have been racing their soapbox. This has been a fantastic event in each lesson for students to work together and showcase their design and see it in action! They will then evaluate their soapbox and discuss how they could develop their design if they were to make it in the future.

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 Gymnastics, Basketball, Dance, Orienteering, and Netball and Our extra-curricular activities are as follows:

 PHS PE After School Activities 2025 			
Half Term 4			
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 and 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

Students have been working really hard in clubs to create Dances for our Annual Dance Showcase. This will take part on Friday 7th March starting at 6pm in the Hall. Tickets will £4 and a QR code will come out after half term to purchase them. Well done to all involved and good luck for the Show.

High Expectations

At Poynton High School, we uphold very high expectations of our young people throughout all aspects of school; how they wear their uniform, their conduct on their way to and from school, their attitude and manner throughout the school day and their commitment to and engagement with their learning. As a school, we work hard to ensure our young people are aware of our expectations of them and we are grateful for the support from parents and carers in reiterating this message. Students should arrive on time to school each day, dressed in full and correct uniform. We have a very small and very limited supply of spare uniform that can be borrowed by students, but this should be a rare occurrence. Form time starts promptly at 8:45am and students should be in form at this time, ready to start their day. Your continued support for our high expectations is appreciated.

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

Mental Health and Wellbeing

- Throughout the course of this year, our students have had fortnightly ‘Wellbeing Wednesdays’, where they have completed activities and held discussions in form time promoting positive mental health.
- There are resources available and links to further information around mental health and wellbeing on the Year 8 page on Google Classroom. Here, you can find tips from students around promoting positive mental health in a number of categories, such as sleep, exercise and social media use.

Useful social media information

Social Media Age Restrictions



If you have any queries about anything school related, please do not hesitate to get in touch. Well done once again to all of our students on their hard work this year. We hope you all have a restful break and look forward to seeing you back in school on Monday 24th February.

Thank you for your continued support.

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