



Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope this bulletin finds you and your families safe and well. This half term has been just five weeks, but packed full of opportunities for our Year 9 students. As ever, the Year 9s 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 9s have made real progress already this year and it has been a real pleasure to work with them. Next half term will be an important one for the Year 9s, with their GCSE options process commencing. Inside this bulletin you will find updates from different subject areas:

**Options Timeline**

Date	What's happening:
<b>Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Options talk to Y9 students</b> – period 5
<b>Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>SDD – Y9 focus Option Choices</b> Options Evening for parents Y9 Options launch on website
<b>Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Subject presentations in lessons
<b>Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Y9 Parents Evening
<b>Monday 17<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Deadline to submit Form</b> Options forms to be submitted online via Bromcom, My Child at School. If you have not already signed-up, please click on the link self-sign up for instructions. <a href="https://www.poyntonhigh.org.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=1427&amp;type=pdf">https://www.poyntonhigh.org.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=1427&amp;type=pdf</a>
<b>Year 9 Exams</b>	Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> April – Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> April

**English**

Students are currently studying various forms of war literature including poetry, non-fiction and short stories. Year 9 will receive feedback on their Term 2 assessment after half-term.

**Next Half term:** Looks at war poets such as Wilfred Owen and develops students’ approach to extended responses to texts they have read, all in preparation for English in Key Stage 4.

**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 child 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 are moving onto geometry reviewing their angle facts and learning about the famous mathematician Pythagoras and his important theorem. Students will also explore transformations of shapes – can you name the four transformations.

**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

### **Next Half Term:**

Biology: Human Impact on the Environment

Chemistry: The Periodic table

Physics: Particles continued

**How you can support your young person:** In preparation for their end of year exams students will be set centrally on Seneca assignments to complete for Biology/Chemistry and Physics. More information about this will be given before Easter. Seneca is something they can use independently as well as completing the assignments set by their teachers.

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

Biology: Ecology <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KvK7EJimAH8>

Chemistry: Atomic Structure and Periodic Table <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m55kgvApYrY>

Physics: Particles <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sQ4J0jcAUec>

## Religious Studies

**Next Half Term:** We will be studying the religion of Buddhism including who the Buddha was and what some of his teachings suggested about the world around us.

**How you can support your young person:** Parents/carers can encourage their young person to start thinking about what they already know about Buddhism and comparing it to other religions.

**Stretch and Challenge:** As a challenge their can research key Buddhist beliefs such as; Karma, Rebirth and meditation.

## Geography

Spring term saw year 9 continuing their studies of the social and economic impacts of population change in Japan and Nigeria as well as the issues facing people in LICs such as malaria. The second assessed task

enabled our students to apply this understanding and develop their skills in data response using population pyramids and graphs as well as images to draw informed answers. The revision resources used in lessons and on their Google Classroom enabled them to perform really well and we were really proud of them.

**Next half term:** We will be moving on to look at the USA as a multi hazardous location, we are studying the causes and impacts of tornadoes and how to mitigate the increasing incidence of wildfires in the USA– a very topical unit!

**How you can support your young person:** As our students are approaching their GCSE Options they can see the opportunities that continuing their geography studies can bring them as we discuss options in class and show clips such as this one <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Mj8MTWZX4M> What can you do with geography?

**Stretch and Challenge:** There are lots of map quizzes on this excellent <https://www.geoguessr.com/l/usa> and for more insight into natural hazards there is this link to look at <https://www.geographypods.com/tornadoes.html>

## History

**Next half term:** Year 9 have been investigating Hitler's Germany and after half term will be looking at the Holocaust, a topic I am sure they will show great empathy towards.

**How you can support your young person:** Students will be discussing the GCSE options they wish to choose next half term. History GCSE is a potential option, there will be information available for students in class and for parents and students online, please encourage your young person to read through the information carefully.

**Stretch and Challenge:** Students may want to conduct further research into the Holocaust using websites like the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust or the Holocaust Educational Trust or even the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

## MFL

**Next Half term:** In German, we are continuing our work on free time before going onto celebrity cultures. In Spanish, we will finish our topic of healthy living before learning about holidays and festivals. 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:** 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 research why you should carry on with learning languages at GCSE and beyond? Make a list of 10 reasons why to share with your class.

## Computing

**Next half term:** Students will move onto Python Programming after 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 in preparation for the next half term.



### Textiles and Food and Nutrition

**Next Half term:** In Textiles we have been designing and developing a bucket hat. Students have been focusing producing their own pattern to cut out their fabric pieces. Some, students have brought in their own fabric for their products and upcycled old garments. We are now using the sewing machine to construct students’ products. In food and nutrition students will be studying different diets and practical will include, vegetarian pasta bake and fajitas

**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.

### 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:

 <b>PHS PE After School Activities 2025</b> 			
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.

## **Product design**

Passive Amplifier project - 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.

Students have been manufacturing their passive amplifier through using a range of tools and equipment in the workshop. This has included:

- Steel ruler and tri-square
- Using a tenon saw to cut their hardwood
- Pillar drill
- Mortiser
- Belt sander

**Next half term:** students will finish off their passive amplifier ready to begin their next project

## **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](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 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

## Useful Social Media Information

# Social Media Age Restrictions



## 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 9 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.

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 24<sup>th</sup> February.

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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