



Poynton High School
Year 11 Parent and Carer Bulletin – February 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Each half term I will send out a year group bulletin, inside your will find important information about what students have been studying recently and what is coming up next half term for our students. It will also contain information about strategies suggested by subject tutors to ensure students achieve their maximum potential.

It was great to see many of you in person at the Parent's Evening this half term and also the Revision evening. I hope you found both of these useful to help you support your young person.

Revision and examination support

The first week back after half term students are sitting their mock examinations. These are to help prepare them for their formal examinations in the summer. **We recommend that students should be doing a minimum of 3 hours of revision each day over the half term break, taking rests in between, doing activities they enjoy and having one full day free from revision.** 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>

There is a Year 11 Study drop in session on a Tuesday 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.

Year 11 Afterschool Sessions	
Day	Session
Tuesday	Revision Drop in with Miss Dovey Music (20 min slots booked with Mr Western)
Wednesday	Product Design NEA Catch up Computer Science Rm30 iMedia Rm29
Thursday	Music (20 min slots booked with Mr Western)
Friday	English intervention

Important dates

- Mock Exams: 24/02/25 – 03/02/25
- 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 extracurricular activities and how as a school we support their learning. As a Year team we will use this to help us continue to support our young people.

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.

English

Directed Revision is set for every fortnight. Evidence that it is completed should be uploaded to Google Classroom. Tasks below to ensure your young person is up to date. Supported Study and revision sessions are every Friday in Room 32. Info is on the front of English Literature Directed Revision booklets.

How you can help your young person revise:

- They should revisit each text. This includes watching the plays which are on Digital Theatre+. (Login user: user.poyntonhs Password: morning@7738)
- Use the other resources – including materials on the Anthology poems – on Digital Theatre+.
- Any revision guide such as CGP that supports the AQA English Language (8700) and Literature (8702) GCSE course

Exam dates:

English Language Paper 1 23rd May, Paper 2 6th June.

English Lit Paper 1 12th May, Paper 2 20th May.

GCSE English Language: Paper 1				
Question 1: retrieval	Question 2: How does the writer use language...	Question 3: How does the writer use structure...	Question 4: To what extent do you agree...	Question 5: Descriptive or narrative piece
4 marks	8 marks	8 marks	20 marks	40 marks
1. Mark off the lines given in the question to help you focus your answer. 2. List answers from the text.	1. Read the question and highlight key words. 2. Make 2-3 points. Support each point with a quote and comment. 3. Explore the method and zoom in on key words 4. Explain the effect of this choice in detail.	1. Make 2-3 points (start, middle, end). Identify the structural feature (e.g. focus). 2. Give an example/reference to back up each point. 3. Explore the meaning or effect created by this decision.	1. Read the question and highlight key words. 2. Decide on your opinion and find evidence to support your ideas. 3. Write your answer, using evidence to back up each point. 4. Refer to the methods used.	1. Choose the task. An examiner must feel convinced that you have attempted to address one of the tasks set and have not attempted to adapt or reproduce a pre-prepared piece of writing. Better answers will clearly be relevant to the task. 2. Quickly plan your answer. 3. When you write, the quality of the first paragraph is imperative. Make sure that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> You show off a broad range of vocabulary. You use a range of sophisticated sentence structures. You avoid errors in spelling, punctuation, and grammar. Your final answer should be 300+ words/at least a side and a half of A4.

GCSE English Literature: J&H – Approaching Extract Questions					
Step One: Read the plot information first. Think about where the extract is from, what happens before, and what happens after.	Step Two: Read the question . Highlight the key focus (this will be a character or a theme)	Step Three: Read the extract . Highlight and annotate key quotes that are relevant and help you respond to the question.	Step Four: Link to the whole text . Note down key moments and/or key quotes that link to the character or theme.	Step Five: Write your essay . Aim to include a introduction, 3-4 paragraphs containing interesting analysis of methods in the extract and in the play as a whole.	Step Six: Proof-read . Check through your work (in particular ensure you spell Stevenson correctly!)

Maths

Students have received the grades and feedback from their December mocks and are working hard to prepare for the next set of mock exams after half term. Students will one paper in exam conditions, and will require a calculator. In order to best revise for the upcoming exams, students should use the information from the analysis they filled out in class about the previous mocks, and use Sparx to practice the topics they are weakest at.

We have a weekly Sparx drop in on Tuesday lunch time in room 29. Please encourage your young person to attend if they need support with accessing the site, or answering any particularly tricky questions.

We will also be uploading past papers weekly to your young persons' google classroom which will enable them to do more exam practice to aid their revision. All papers will come with video worked solutions to help students understand how to answer questions fully and gain the maximum marks.

If you would still like to order revision guide for your young person, it is still possible to do so via Amazon:

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>Biology</p>	<p>Separate Science Students: Have learned about how DNA controls the body and how genetic characteristics are inherited</p> <p>Combined Science Students: Have been learning about the causes of our characteristics and how inherited features are passed on.</p> <p>All: Have analysed their assessment and completed a series of follow up tasks designed to build on key skills</p>	<p>Separate Science Students: Will be learning about the causes and importance of variation in a species and how different theories of evolution try to explain the change in species over time. They will carry out their final Required Practical into Antibiotic Resistance.</p> <p>Combined Science Students: Will be learning about the causes and importance of variation in a species and how Darwin's Theory of Natural Selection explains evolution.</p> <p>All: Will complete a Paper 2 mock exam to assess their knowledge and progress since December.</p>
<p>Chemistry</p>	<p>Separate Science Students: Students have evaluated the recent mock exams to identify targets for improvement and plan how they will achieve these. They have completed the final topic of the GCSE course 'Earth's Resources'.</p> <p>Combined Science Students: Students have evaluated the recent mock exams to identify targets for improvement and plan how they will achieve these. They have also completed their studies of Chemical analysis (topic C8) and Earths Resources (C10).</p>	<p>Separate Science Students: Will sit and evaluate a Paper 2 mock examination and then start the revision programme in preparation for the summer exams.</p> <p>Combined Science Students: Will sit and evaluate a Paper 2 mock examination and then start the revision programme in preparation for the summer exams.</p>
<p>Physics</p>	<p>Separate Science Students: Students have continued their studies of Waves, before moving onto Electromagnetism.</p> <p>Combined Science Students: Students have continued their studies of Waves, before moving onto the final topic of Electromagnetism.</p>	<p>Separate Science Students: Students will be completing their electromagnetism studies before starting the final topic of space.</p> <p>Combined Science Students: Students will complete the last part of the electromagnetism topic before starting revision for the upcoming exams.</p>

How to support your young person:

Year 11s have had their grades back from their paper 1 mocks, this has helped to guide with regards to final tier entry (foundation or higher). However, the paper 2 grades are also important in ensuring the correct tier decision is made for students, which is why it is crucial that students fully prepare for these examinations. It also ensures students are fully prepared going forward towards the summer examinations.

Paper 2 Mock Examinations (Starting first week back after half term break) :

These will assess the Paper 2 content of the course. All students will sit 3 separate 1 hour papers (one for each of the Sciences).

Revision for Paper 2 mock (Chunked revision)

The Science team has coordinated a structured revision programme ('chunked revision') to help ensure students are fully prepared. We would really appreciate your support in encouraging your young person to complete these tasks, which have already started. This includes completing the weekly/fortnightly revision tasks for Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

Student should revise the designated topics (complete mind-map/revision clocks/flash-cards etc.) as part of the 'preparation' stage of revision, and then complete the exam questions to apply their knowledge and practice exam technique as part of the 'performance' and 'progress' stages of revision.

Seneca

Seneca is a free online resource which can be used to support students. Please encourage your young person to use Seneca regularly. They can work through topics independently and complete additional assignments and quizzes on any topics they are struggling with.

<https://senecalearning.com/en-GB/>.

Useful Revision Websites

Combined Science: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/z8r997h>

Triple Science: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zpgcbk7> (Biology)

Triple Science: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/z8xtmnb> (Chemistry)

Triple Science: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zsc9rdm> (Physics)

Revision guides

The majority of students purchased these in September. If your young person does not have one and you would like them to have one, below are details of how you can order directly from CGP:

Double (Combined) Science revision guides:

Higher tier (sets 1 and 2): <https://www.cgpbooks.co.uk/secondary-books/gcse/science/combined-science/sahr46-gcse-combined-science-aqa-revision>

Foundation tier (sets 3 and 4): <https://www.cgpbooks.co.uk/secondary-books/gcse/science/combined-science/safr46-gcse-combined-science-aqa-revision>

Triple science students (will need separate ones for Biology, Chemistry and Physics):

Biology: <https://www.cgpbooks.co.uk/secondary-books/gcse/science/biology/bar46-gcse-biology-aqa-revision-guide-higher>

Chemistry: <https://www.cgpbooks.co.uk/secondary-books/gcse/science/chemistry/car46-gcse-chemistry-aqa-revision-guide>

Physics: <https://www.cgpbooks.co.uk/secondary-books/gcse/science/physics/par48-gcse-physics-aqa-revision-guide-higher>

Stretch and challenge tasks

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

How Mendel's pea plants helped us understand genetics:

https://www.ted.com/talks/hortensia_jimenez_diaz_how_mendel_s_pea_plants_helped_us_understand_genetics

The end of oil? https://www.ted.com/playlists/58/the_end_of_oil

How electromagnetic waves will help us discover the universe:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T4UMged7o6g>

Religious Studies

Immediately after February half term students will be sitting their RS mock examination. This will be 1 hour in length and focus on Component 1 (ie yellow exercise books and revision materials). Students DO NOT need to revise Component 2 Thematic Studies (ie purple exercise books and revision materials) for this mock examination.

Students have the relevant revision materials for these so just need to focus on consolidating their learning. This can be done in a variety of ways:

- Mind maps
- Cue cards
- Past exam papers

Once the mocks are over, students will be moving onto study their final topic of the course, Religion and Conflict. In preparation for this topic students could watch the following film clips:

<https://www.truetube.co.uk/resource/remembering-9-11/>

<https://www.truetube.co.uk/resource/7-7/>

Finally, students could start to do some independent learning of the war, peace and conflict topic by reading about it on the website link below:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zy4j7yc/articles/z96k6rd#z46k6rd>

History

Coming up next half term:

As you will be aware Year 11 students have another set of mock examinations after the February half term and students should be revising the History of Medicine unit for this examination. They should be using their exercise books from Year 10, revision guides and should make use of resources on BBC Bitesize and Seneca Learning.

How you can support your young person?

The History Department will be running weekly revision sessions and they will start after the mock exams. Students will need to sign up on the sheet outside room 73 if they wish to attend these sessions. Please encourage your young person to attend.

Stretch and challenge:

Students could complete a past paper and bring this to their teachers to mark. Past papers can be found on the Edexcel GCSE History website.

Geography

Year 11 have had a very busy half term, working through the content on the Living World and Resource Management. They are all working really hard and we are so proud of them.

Coming up next half term:

Next half term is an especially busy one in the geography department for our students as we have our human geography fieldwork to complete in Poynton looking at whether the shared space is an environmental and economic success. We then need to gather in the Hall to write up our findings as well as the write up for the river's fieldwork day from the end of year 10. Towards the end of the half term the 'pre-release' issue content for the GCSE Paper 3 is sent into schools for us to prepare and teach to the students after the Easter break. Busy times indeed!

How you can support your young person:

As we approach the next set of assessments there is an assignment for all of our GCSE Geography students in their class Google Classroom informing them of the structure of this third assessment that reads as follows.

In light of the December mock examination and to ensure that you have had an opportunity to complete some Living World questions, your next assessment will be one hour and will be on these sections of paper 1.

River = 15 marks

Coasts = 15 marks

The Living World = 25 marks. This will include content up to and including tropical rainforests.

Attached are 2 links to the BBC Bitesize for you to make notes and a Revision Blast on Tropical Rainforests, Rivers and Coasts. many of you will have completed the one for Rivers on the online learning snow day already.

A stretch and challenge task for over half term:

We are also assigning a Google Quiz each week to be completed by all students and checked by their teachers, as well as links to revision resources and tasks such as revision clocks, revision cards and lists of case studies that students need to learn. The first one started on January 31st and is on Rivers. There will be one each week, set on a Monday for the following Monday until all 3 exams are completed.

GCSE Business

Year 11 are now on their last unit, external influences on businesses. They are also completing their final mock, which will be a paper 2 style question paper – focussing on applying their knowledge to a real world business.

You can support your young person by ensuring they have completed their weekly revision homework and testing them on the key terms and formulas from activity 1.

A stretch and challenge task for over half term:

Have a look at the impact Trump's presidency is having on Businesses in the USA, Canada and Europe – which businesses have been the most impacted? Who has been impacted positively? Who has been impacted negatively?

Computer Science

Year 11s are currently working on their NEA. They have 20 hours to create their programming project. This is forming part of their revision for Paper 2 as well.

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

Year 11 students have been working on completing their Interactive Multimedia Product for their local libraries. This unit of work will be completed by February half-term, 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.

Product Design

Students have been continuing with their NEA (Non-Exam Assessment) which is 50% of their GCSE alongside the theory element of the course which is also 50% with an exam at the end of Year 11. This half term students have been working on their design development and final design idea which includes their cutting list and working drawing. Students have also created a model so that they can visualise their final product and have a better understanding of how to manufacture it.

Students have also been continuing to work on the theory element of the course with Miss Corry and going through revision for their upcoming mock after half term.

Next half term we will be solely focussing on the NEA which will give students ample time to complete their making alongside their making diary and finishing their NEA with the evaluation and testing section.

As a reminder; students are welcome to come back after school where Miss Corry and Mrs Cronshaw will be available. Mrs Cronshaw is also available on Tuesday 18th February (half term), if you would like your young person to join this session please send her an email to let her know vcronshaw@poyntonhigh.org.uk.

All help guides are available for students on Google Classroom for them to work on in their own time.

CNAT Sports Studies

Next half term:

Our Year 11 students have continued their learning of the first two topics which include Topic 1 (issues affecting participation), Topic 2 (The role of sport in promoting values). After half term, students will complete an interleaving test for Topic 1 and 2 during one of their CNAT Sport Studies lessons. They will then continue you with the course with Topic 3 = Implications of hosting major sporting events and Topic 4 = Role of NGBs

How you can support your young person:

You can encourage your young person by asking questions about the subject content they are learning, supporting their revision for interleaving tests. There is also a revision booklet for the exam, which can be purchased here: <https://www.amazon.co.uk/New-Cambridge-National-Sport-Studies/dp/1837740585>.

Task for over half term:

To stretch and challenge your young person over half term, encourage them to start creating revision resources for the content they have learned or to create and present a brief PowerPoint to demonstrate their understanding of the Topic 1 and 2 areas we have looked at in class. Cambridge National Catch-up Club is still on every Thursday in room 7 for those students who wish to use this time to revise for the summer exam.

GCSE PE

Next half term:

Students have worked hard this half term to complete their 'AEP'. This is their controlled assessment that contributes to their final grade. After half term, students will complete Paper 1 during their mock exams and should prepare for this. They will then continue with the content on the course including Injury Prevention, Risks and Hazards in Sport.

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 1 exams. 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

Year 11 will complete their final practical exam Thursday 6th March and their Performance Evening is Friday 7th March in the School Hall at 6.00pm. Tickets will come out via a QR code after half term. When all practical exam is over all lessons will be theory lessons. Students must ensure they utilise the time in and out of the lessons to ensure a grade they are capable of. Students should also use the revision booklets given to help with answering section B and C of the paper. Good luck Year 11.

Music

It has been a busy year for Year 11 learning more keywords for the GCSE listening Exam paper, learning how to compose and experience recording under pressure a solo and an ensemble performance for their NEA. It's been a joy to watch them achieve and be successful throughout the year with their recordings. Over the holiday the students need to embed the three set studies from The Little Shop of Horrors and Mozart's Concerto into their memory. AQA test that the student understands the musical and key features within the tracks so the students really need to be able to play the music back in their head during the exam. The tracks need to be played regularly over the

next few weeks until the exam. They have good, detailed analysis of all tracks and revision posters and more in their google drive music folder of resources. Over the holiday students will be able to play some Quizlet revision games all about the Mozart Set Study. These resources will re-enforce their knowledge of the musical features which will be tested. There are many fun ways to do this, revision flash cards, timed tests, match up games and more. Some students need to finish their ensemble recording when we get back so please make sure they are rehearsing.

MFL

What is coming up in MFL:

In Year 11, in French and German we have more or less covered all the topics that will be assessed in the exams. It will give us plenty of revision time in lessons.

Students have been given revision booklets to support them in their individual preparation for the examinations. Please check with them that they are completing the weekly tasks either in the booklets or online. Details are the classes' on Google Classrooms.

Dates for the diary:

24/02-28/02: mock exams 2 – French and German students will be completing a Listening exam in the hall or gym.

24/04- 02/05: Speaking exams. Each teacher will have a specific date when they are completing the exam with their classes. Please make sure that you check with your young person their day and time of appointment. We would like to remind parents that this is the first exam in French and German, and it counts for 25% of the final grade.

How can I support my young person in French or German:

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

Good revision websites:

[BBC Bitesize](#)

[Seneca](#) (students have a log in, it is used by other subjects too)

[Oak academy](#)

[Pearson ActiveLearn](#) (students have a log in, check with MFL teacher)

Keep following us on Twitter too:

Mr Farrell- @MonsieurFarrell

French Department - @PH_rench

German Department - @PHS_GERMAN Spanish Department@PHS_Spanish

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 half term both preparing for your mocks and making sure you have a good rest. We will look forward to welcoming you all back on Monday 23rd February 2025.

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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