



## **Poynton High School Year 10 Parent and Carer Bulletin – February 2025**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Each half term I will send out a year group bulletin, inside you 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 include information about strategies suggested by subject tutors to ensure students achieve their maximum potential.

It was great to see so many of you at the Parent's Evening this half term. I hope you found the evening useful and informative.

### **Revision and examination support**

Next half term the Year 10 students will be sitting their mock exams. You will receive more information about this after half term. 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>

### **Important dates**

- Mock Exams: 24/03/25 – 04/04/25
- In class assessments: 9/6/25 – 27/6/25

### **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.

### **GCSE English Language**

What is the course structure?

HT1	HT2	HT3	HT4	HT5	HT6
Introduction to the course including key concepts	Exploration of how writers convey attitudes	Rhetoric and Oracy: S&L Assessment	Genre and Mock Prep FULL Paper 1 MOCK	Whole class read – structuring of a narrative	Theory-based learning including an EATL

What does the exam involve?

For the English Language GCSE students will complete 2 papers:

Paper 1: Creative Reading and Writing

Reading: 4 questions based on one fiction text

Writing: Choice of descriptive or narrative task linked to an image

Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives

Reading: 4 questions based on two non-fiction texts

Writing: Non-fiction writing task inspired by a statement

S&L Assessment: Completed in Year 10 Term 2. It does not contribute to the overall grade.

*Please note: AQA have announced some small changes to the phrasing of the questions, starting with exams in May 2026. Students will be made aware of these changes.*

How can I support my child's revision?

PREPARATION TASKS EXAMPLES:

1. Read varied quality fiction and non-fiction
2. Learn suggested approaches to each exam question (see the back of this sheet)
3. Look at examples of good responses
4. Learn subject terminology – create quiz cue cards
5. Practice reading and annotating unseen texts.

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 <b>attempted</b> to address one of the tasks set and have <b>not</b> 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"> <li>• You show off a broad range of vocabulary.</li> <li>• You use a range of sophisticated sentence structures.</li> <li>• You avoid errors in spelling, punctuation, and grammar.</li> </ul> Your final answer should be 300+ words/at least a side and a half of A4.

## English Literature

What is the course structure?

HT1	HT2	HT3	HT4	HT5	HT6
Power and Conflict Poetry 1	Macbeth: Plot Study	Macbeth: Character and Themes	P&C Poetry 2 MOCK: Macbeth	An Inspector Calls: Plot and Character	Jekyll & Hyde: Plot Study

What does the exam involve?

For the English Literature GCSE students will complete 2 papers:

Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19<sup>th</sup> Century

Section A: Extract-based question on Macbeth

Section B: Extract-based question on Jekyll and Hyde

Paper 2: Modern Texts and Poetry

Section A: Choice of two questions on An Inspector Calls (students choose ONE)

Section B: Comparison question on 2 poems from Power and Conflict

Section C: 2 questions on 2 unseen poems

*Please note: Students are not allowed to take copies of their studied texts into the exam.*

How can I support my child's revision?

PREPARATION TASKS EXAMPLES:

1. Know their texts - encourage them to re-read the texts as much as possible
2. Know the plot – watch on Digital Theatre Plus  
(Login user: user.poyntonhs Password: morning@7738)
3. Know the characters and themes - create a mind map or revision clock for each character/theme
4. Learn the quotes - create key quotes cue cards for each character/theme
5. Learn the relevant subject terminology - practice annotating key quotes with the relevant devices and explore effects

GCSE English Literature Mock Exam: Macbeth – Approaching Extract Questions					
Step One: Read the <b>plot information</b> first. Think about where the extract is from, what happens before, and what happens after.	Step Two: Read the <b>question</b> . Highlight the key focus (this will be a character or a theme)	Step Three: Read the <b>extract</b> . Highlight and annotate key quotes that are relevant and help you respond to the question.	Step Four: Link to the <b>whole play</b> . Note down key moments and/or key quotes that link to the character or theme.	Step Five: <b>Write your essay</b> . 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: <b>Proof-read</b> . This section has 4 spelling, punctuation and grammar marks available so check through your work (in particular ensure you spell Shakespeare correctly!)

## Maths

Year 10 are beginning to prepare for their end of year exams in March. This will be their first experience of sitting a full GCSE paper and we can use this to measure their progress towards their target grades. During lessons we will provide opportunities for students to revise topics and prepare for these exams, but students should be completing their own independent revision using the resources available to them. They can use revision guides if you have purchased one, Sparx and the knowledge organisers in their exercise books.

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
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<p><b>Biology</b></p>	<p><b>Separate Science Students:</b> Have been learning about the life cycle of the cell and how substances are moved in and out. This included completing a Required Practical on Osmosis.</p> <p><b>Combined Science Students:</b> Have been learning about how the heart and lungs work together to allow the body to respire and release the energy it requires. They have observed the dissection of a heart and investigated the effect of exercise.</p> <p><b>All:</b> Have completed TMA activities in order to develop their extended writing skills using biological detail</p>	<p><b>Separate Science Students:</b> Will finish the Paper 1 content of their course and start a Separate Science only topic on Human Impacts on the environment. They will learn about the balance between providing the resources humans need and preserving biodiversity.</p> <p><b>Combined Science:</b> Will begin the final topics of the Paper 1 content where they will learn more about cells. They will complete 2 required practical activities.</p> <p><b>All:</b> Will complete a mock examination to see what knowledge and skills they have acquired this year.</p>
<p><b>Chemistry</b></p>	<p><b>Separate Science Students:</b> Have been working through the topic of Quantitative Chemistry (C3). This topic focuses on the calculations needed in chemistry to work out how much of a substance is needed for a reaction to work and how much can be made. They have carried out a titration as a required practical which was a real test of their practical skills. They have started to study the final paper 1 topic of Energy Changes.</p> <p><b>Combined Science Students:</b> Have been working through the topic of Quantitative Chemistry (C3). This topic focuses on the calculations needed in chemistry to work out how much of a substance is needed for a reaction to work and how much can be made.</p>	<p><b>Separate Science Students:</b> Will complete the topic of Energy Changes (C5). Will sit a mock examination covering the paper 1 content studied so far. They will be issued with a chunked revision booklet to guide them. They will then complete the topic of Energy Changes (C5).</p> <p><b>Combined Science Students:</b> Will study electrolysis to complete the topic of Chemical Changes (C4). They will then revise for and sit a mock examination covering paper 1 content studied so far. They will be issued with a chunked revision booklet to guide them.</p>
<p><b>Physics</b></p>	<p><b>Separate Science Students:</b> Have been completing the Atomic and Nuclear topic before starting the separate science only material in the Energy and Particles topics, developing their understanding of these areas and completed TMAs in each topic.</p> <p><b>Combined Science Students:</b> Continued their work on Atomic Structure, which is revision of their Y9</p>	<p><b>Separate Science Students:</b> Will be delving into the forces topic before revising paper 1 content for their upcoming exam.</p> <p><b>Combined Science Students:</b> Will be completing a required practical on specific heat capacity, which completes their work on Energy which</p>

	Chemistry work, and now starting to look at nuclear radiation.	began in Year 9, and will be assessed in Paper 1 in their mocks.
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How to support your young person:

- **Assessments**  
The next year 10 assessments will take place the week beginning 24th March. Students will sit 3 separate 1 hour papers, one for each Science.
- **Chunked Revision**  
To help support your young person in preparing for the upcoming Science GCSE mock examinations, the Science team has coordinated a structured revision programme. All students will be set revision tasks to complete for Biology, Chemistry and Physics. These will be set in designated weekly/fortnightly 'chunks'. There will be a revision task to complete for each science, and then one question/task per science will be set leading up to their mock examinations. 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.
- **Stretch and challenge tasks**  
Below are some useful website links for any students wishing to extend their knowledge of topics covered this half-term:  
How the Heart Actually Pumps Blood: [https://www.ted.com/talks/edmond\\_hui\\_how\\_the\\_heart\\_actually\\_pumps\\_blood](https://www.ted.com/talks/edmond_hui_how_the_heart_actually_pumps_blood)  
As Close as you can get to Chemistry magic: [https://www.ted.com/talks/john\\_thomas\\_as\\_close\\_as\\_you\\_can\\_get\\_to\\_chemistry\\_magic](https://www.ted.com/talks/john_thomas_as_close_as_you_can_get_to_chemistry_magic)  
Radioactivity: Expect the unexpected: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TJgc28csgV0>
- **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. These are also available from bookshops/Amazon:  
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>

## **Religious Studies**

Over this half term students have been learning about the role of the Church in the local and wider community. This has allowed them to gain insight into the wide variety of voluntary work, charitable organisations and international relief that Christians in the UK support.

Student could consolidate their learning on this topic by looking at the following website:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/znqck2p/revision/7>

After half term students will be moving on to an ethics topic, Religion, Relationships and Families as part of their Thematic Studies component. Students will be learning about issues of gender, sexuality, same sex relationships, divorce and religious views to these. They will look at how UK law responds to same sex relationships alongside secular views on relationships and the family.

Revision guides for the course are available to purchase, please see below a link to access these.

[https://www.amazon.co.uk/AQA-GCSE-Religious-Studies-Christianity/dp/0198422857/ref=sr\\_1\\_12?crd=1VOULT5VJFLPK&keywords=gcse+rs+revision+guide&qid=1679475725&sprefix=gcse+rs+revision+guid%2Caps%2C248&sr=8-12](https://www.amazon.co.uk/AQA-GCSE-Religious-Studies-Christianity/dp/0198422857/ref=sr_1_12?crd=1VOULT5VJFLPK&keywords=gcse+rs+revision+guide&qid=1679475725&sprefix=gcse+rs+revision+guid%2Caps%2C248&sr=8-12)

## **History**

Coming up next half term:

Year 10 have been continuing with the History of Medicine course and will be sitting an assessment on the Medieval and Renaissance period of medicine in class. Parents should be aware that students will have mock examinations in March/April and for History this will focus on the Medicine course.

How can you support your young person?

Half term would be an excellent opportunity to create revision material and make use of the revision resources on BBC Bitesize and Seneca Learning. Please encourage your young person to do so.

Stretch and Challenge activity:

Students will be beginning Medicine in the modern period in the next half term, students could research 20<sup>th</sup> century medical developments in preparation for this. There is an excellent medical museum in Leeds called the Thackray Medical Museum that would be worth a visit in half term.

## **Geography**

Coming up next half term:

In Year 10 this term our students have been studying the first of the paper 2 human geography topics called 'Urban Issues' they have looked at the growth of our megacities and the issues facing cities in Newly Emerging Economies such as India with a focus on Mumbai. We look at the challenges facing the people there as well as the many opportunities. We then have moved on to studying a city in a Higher Income Country – Manchester! the city has, and still is, changing and again our students consider the opportunities for people as well as the challenges posed by urban growth. We will then look at how Manchester can be more sustainable as its population grows and we continue this topic next half term.

How you can support your young person:

Revision of the content is ongoing and it is important that students recognise this and complete all tasks set to them.

A stretch and challenge task for over half term:

As always there is lots of support and interesting clips on Youtube and through the BBC Bitesize pages for geography students. We subscribe to the excellent Internet Geography and their pages on Manchester are excellent for extra information and to help students with home learning <https://www.internetgeography.net/topics/manchester-case-study/>

### **GCSE Business**

Next half term our year 10 students will be finishing off Human resources, looking at the impact trade unions have on Businesses. Towards the end of the half term will we be moving on to look at marketing.

In year 10 you can support your young person by talking about what's happening in the news with regards to Business.

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 10 students have been designing, creating and refining algorithms this half term, as well as being introduced to programming in Python. After half term, time spent on programming will increase.

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 10s have been using Adobe Illustrator and Photoshop to create the visual identity and chocolate box lid for Choco Indulgence. This unit will be completed by the Easter term, when we will move onto a different 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**

This half term students have continued to do a mix of theory and practical lessons.

Both Mrs Dempsey and Mrs Cronshaw teach our Year 10 group and they have been working on the following with Year 10:

Mrs Dempsey has continued with the Timbers theory in preparation for their Year 10 assessments this term. Students will have begun to understand exam technique and how they can apply their theory knowledge.

Mrs Cronshaw has started on the Animal Fan project. This project incorporates using a range of materials including metals, timbers and electronics. This is a fantastic opportunity for students to explore these different mediums and how they can be incorporated into one project. Both Mrs Cronshaw and Mrs Dempsey are incorporating the theory of these material areas so that students are understand these materials at a deeper level.

It is suggested that students buy the Edexcel revision guide. Edexcel is our exam board so please make sure to buy the correct revision guide.

[https://www.amazon.co.uk/My-Revision-Notes-Pearson-Technology/dp/1510480501/ref=sr\\_1\\_4?crd=3U0SJE5UA8KDU&keywords=edexcel+design+and+technology&qid=1697534544&sprefix=edexcel+design+and+technology+%2Caps%2C3695&sr=8-4](https://www.amazon.co.uk/My-Revision-Notes-Pearson-Technology/dp/1510480501/ref=sr_1_4?crd=3U0SJE5UA8KDU&keywords=edexcel+design+and+technology&qid=1697534544&sprefix=edexcel+design+and+technology+%2Caps%2C3695&sr=8-4)

We also have the pocket revision guide and revision workbook available to students on Evolve to buy.

### **CNAT Sports Studies**

Next half term:

Year 10 CNAT Sports Studies students have worked hard this half term to finish their assignments for the Media Unit. They will have the first 3 lessons after half term to make any final adjustments to their Media assignments. Following this, students will be doing the Leadership unit, where eventually they will plan and lead a sports session of their choice to a group of younger students.

How you can support your young person:

You can encourage your young person by asking questions about the subject content they have been learning as well as encouraging them to attend the Thursday CNAT Catch Up Club where necessary to ensure that they are completing as much work for each heading as possible. This will be every Thursday in room 7 from 3:15 – 4:15pm. In practical lessons, our students have been assigned to one of three groups and will continue with Netball, Rugby, or Table Tennis. It is important that our students are prepared for their lessons and bring appropriate kit for the cold weather.

Task for over half term:

To stretch and challenge your young person over the half term, please ask them to consider the following question: Can you think of 3 different ways that having so much media involved in sport could have a negative impact? Keep up the superb start you have made year 10, we are really impressed!

### **GCSE PE**

Next half term:

The Year 10 GCSE cohort have completed the first four sections of Paper 2. When students return after half term, we will be moving onto the next topic which is Health, fitness and Well-being which includes diet and nutrition along with the physical, emotional and social issues of physical activity.

How you can support your young person:

You can support your young person by ensuring that they are completing appropriate revision resources over the half term break, this includes (but isn't limited to) mind maps, cue cards, completing exam questions, reading through their class notes, etc.

You can also support your young person with collating any video evidence they require as part of the course. Students have been informed of the sports that require video evidence outside of school.

Task for over half term:

A stretch and challenge activity over half term is to review all the content that they have studied so far for Paper 2 and to make sure that they have their revision materials complete. They can also use these to test themselves

## **Dance**

Well done to Year 10 who have just completed their first choreography assessment. We are now creating a whole class dance for our Annual Dance Showcase which will be Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March in the School Hall at 6.00pm. Tickets will come out via a QR code after half term. At parents evening terminology was discussed students are encouraged to complete the PowerPoint on Google Classroom which will help learning all new terminology

## **MFL**

What is coming up in MFL:

In Year 10, in French we are working through our unit on school, comparing French and British school systems and will continue with it for the next half-term, talking about primary school and why learn languages in the future. In Spanish, we are still working on the topic of free time.

Before the Easter holidays, Y10 linguists will sit their next assessments in the hall for their Y10 exams. In French and Spanish, it will be test on their Listening and Writing skills. Each class will be given some revision strategies and list of topics that will be included in the tests.

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

A stretch and challenge activity over half-term:

Why not create a video to present your school to potential French pen pals? Or make a presentation about a famous sports person in Spanish?

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](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](http://www.MyMind.org.uk)

## **Thank you**

Thank you for all of your hard work year 10 and well done on such a brilliant half term. Have a lovely half term break and we will look forward to welcoming you all back on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> 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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