



Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope this bulletin finds you and your families safe and well. We hope this bulletin finds you and your families safe and well. This half term has been packed full of opportunities for our Year 8 students. 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.

English

Students are wrapping up their study of ‘crime in literature’ with a focus on Sherlock Holmes. In recent years crime has become the UK’s best-selling genre and we have studied both modern and Victorian texts, from Agatha Christie’s Miss Marple, through to contemporary crime novels for Young Adults.

Looking ahead, in the summer term we will study the most iconic and influential writer in English Literature: William Shakespeare. His works remain immensely popular and are seen by many as timeless classics that explore universal themes such as love, jealousy, power, and betrayal. In This summer we will study his play ‘Richard III’ – based on a real-life, historical British king whose remains were discovered under a Leicester car park in 2012.

Challenge your child by encouraging them to research Shakespeare and the story of Richard III ahead of the summer term.

Maths

Year 8 have covered a wide variety of topics this half-term. Students have generated trickier algebraic sequences and explored calculations involving indices. Students then reviewed and extended their knowledge on calculating with percentages before finally moving onto a new topic called standard form.

After Easter, year 8 will be moving onto geometry reviewing their knowledge on angle facts before applying this to complex problems involving parallel lines and polygons. They will also explore area and perimeter for a variety of shapes, including circles.

Looking at maths beyond the classroom

Mathematician, Hannah Fry, has a series on how maths and science is used in all our modern technology. The series is called “The Secret Genius of Modern Life”. See how your exercise tracker, trainers, Siri or bank card has been developed and how maths is used in all of these technologies:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m001f1td/the-secret-genius-of-modern-life-series-1-1-bank-card>

Science

This half term students in Y8 continued with 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.

After Easter students will complete the remaining lessons of these topics then they will start their final 3 topics of the year. These are:

8B3- The Body

8C3 Rocks

8P2 Light

These topics will take them to the end of the academic year.

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.

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. If students have still not purchased one from us they can online using this link: <https://www.cgpbooks.co.uk/secondary-books/ks3/science/shs35-new-ks3-science-complete-revision>

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.

Religious Studies

Year 9 have done a great job looking at the basics of Buddhism, such as karma and the 5 precepts. After half term we will be sitting the end of year exam and then will be starting the new GCSE! The first topic will be about Christianity, focusing on worship and festivals.

Parents/carers can encourage their young person to revise using the topic lists that RS teachers have put on Google Classroom.

As a challenge they could try making a mind map of everything they have learned this year and then repeating it from memory. This is a good way to identify gaps in memory when compared to the original mind map and shows students what information they need to prioritise.

Geography

Next term we will start the 'Our Fragile Planet' unit where the causes and impacts of climate change both in the UK and globally will be studied. We will look at sea level rise in the Pacific Ocean affecting the Solomon Islands and how we can reduce carbon in our atmosphere by restoring our peat moorlands.

There is always something exciting to watch and read to enhance your geography knowledge and understanding. 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

We also recommend that students save the BBC Bitesize links and use them in their revision making

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zf89cmn> This one on Russia is useful as

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zydk4xs> China and Brazil here

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zvjdktj>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zs6j2v4/articles/zdmkwnb> Planet Planners is a great activity where you can use your geography decision-making skills to deal with challenges including volcanic eruptions, earthquakes and coastal erosion. Your aim is to play five rounds without your budget or statistics falling to zero.

History

Year 8 students have completed the studying of whether the British Empire was a force for good this half term and will be completing an end of unit test on the topic to demonstrate their understanding of events. After Easter students will move onto looking at how people achieved the right to vote by looking at the impact of the Peterloo Massacre, the Chartists, the Suffragettes and Suffragists.

For extra understanding students could visit the People's History Museum in Manchester or the Pankhurst Museum, both provide a great insight into our new topic.

Research into the lives of the Pankhursts, the women from Manchester who helped shape the Suffragette movement. The following website is a useful place to start: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/articles/zdqh92p>

Product Design

Depending on your young person's teacher; students have been focussing on the Soapbox Challenge or Pewter Casting.

Soapbox Challenge

Students this half term have been focussing on the Soapbox Challenge based on the Soapbox Derby. Students have come up with a range of design ideas for their Soapbox and then have worked in teams to come up with their final design. Students will then go home and come back to school with a range of modelling materials to create their vehicle.

Pewter Casting

Students have 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.

Textiles and Food Preparation and Nutrition



In Food lessons students have been focusing on hygiene and health and safety. The majority of groups have made a Bolognese sauce. 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. After the Easter break students will be making a vegetarian curry and cous cous with roasted vegetables.

In Textiles students have been focusing on health and safety and specialised equipment. Students have had a home learning task based on designers and could generate their own patterns using the Adobe Create app. After the Easter break students will be practicing the applique technique and generating designs with the patterns produced from their home learning. Students will also be printing their own fabrics for the pencil case project using the heat press.

PE

Next ½ Term

- Students will change the activity that they are on. Activities include Softball, Athletics, Tennis, Cricket and Rounders
- Our extra-curricular activities are as follows:

 PHS PE After School Activities 2025 			
Summer 2025			
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	Boys Cricket (CME)	3.15pm—4.15pm	Field
	Girls Cricket (AKE / JLH)	3.15pm—4.15pm	Field
Tuesday	Year 9 Dance Club (CLH)	3.15pm—4.15pm	Dance Studio
	GCSE PE Revision (MAH / AKE)	3.15pm—4.15pm	Room 7
	CNAT Study Hour (KAS)	3.15pm—4.15pm	Room 7
Wednesday	Year 8 Dance Club	3.15pm—4.15pm	Dance Studio
	Girls Rounders	3.15pm—4.15pm	Field
	Boys Rounders	3.15pm—4.15pm	Field
Thursday	Year 7 Dance Club	3.15pm—4.15pm	Dance Studio
	Athletics (KAS / CEW)	3.15pm—4.15pm	Field
	Tennis	3.15pm—4.15pm	Hard courts

Computing

Year 8 students have been looking at how spreadsheets work. Using Microsoft Excel, students have entered information into spreadsheets, run powerful calculations, made graphs and charts and analysed patterns. This will be an assessed unit.

Year 8 & 9 students will not be sitting an examination in Computing in the upcoming examination window. There are a lot of useful resources on BBC Bitesize if students wish to extend their knowledge in the subject, in the meantime.

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

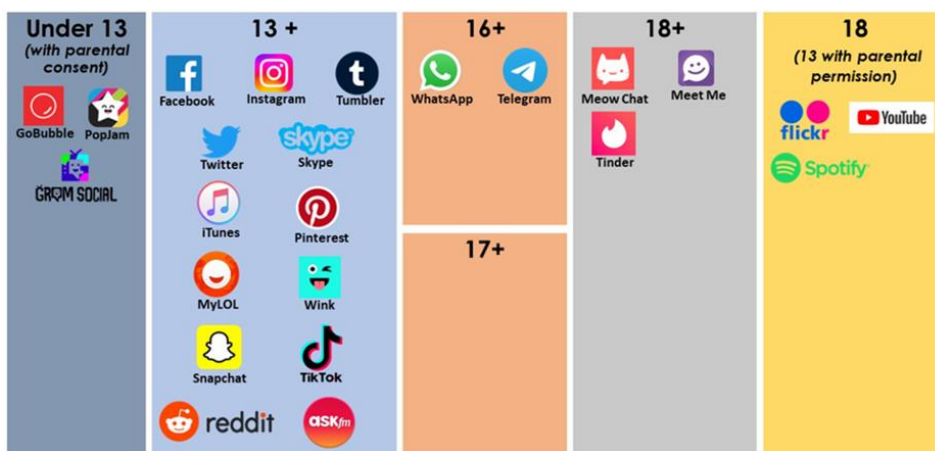
Equipment Reminder

- 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



We are noticing an increased number of issues with students use of social media which then filter into school.

Please support us with this by checking your young person’s phone and monitoring the things they are watching, using and messaging. With the ever-growing world of technology, it is hard to keep up and we all need to work together to help educate and promote positive usage of mobile phones and social media. Here are some safety tips and websites below.

How can I help make it a safer environment?

- Check the age rating of each app and restrict access until they reach that age.
- Set up age-appropriate parental controls, for example set content restrictions and screen time limits.
- Chat to your child about what they are doing online, including who they are following and interacting with online.
- Restrict devices in their bedrooms.
- Show your child how to use any reporting and blocking tools.

Is your child part of any group chats?

This could be on social media, for example on WhatsApp or within games such as Fortnite. If so, it is important that you are aware of the potential risks, which include:

- Inappropriate content – there is often a lack of moderation within chat facilities so users could be exposed to content/language that is not suitable for their age.
- Bullying – there are many instances where inappropriate/hurtful comments are shared within groups, this could take the form of name calling or body shaming. Bullying can also be in the form of excluding others from the group. These issues often overspill into ‘real life’.
- Strangers – your child could be added to groups with people they do not know or even with someone that they have previously blocked.
- Conversations can be shared/screen shot – make sure your child is aware that anything they share within a group can be shared with others outside the group.
- Sharing personal information – remind your child to be aware of the information they share with others including images and location.

How can I help make group chats safer?

- Check the recommended age rating and adhere to them. If we all did this, peer pressure would be reduced.
- Set up age-appropriate parental controls and set screen time limits.
- Show your child how to use any reporting and blocking tools.

Uniform

- Thank you for continuing to support our uniform policy
- Students should not be wearing coats inside the school building.
- A reminder that blazers must be worn to school each day; if a student is wearing a navy jumper, they must also be wearing their blazer. Students should not be wearing a coat instead of a blazers.
- We have seen an increase in the number of young people coming to school with false nails. Not only is this a violation of our uniform policy but it does pose a health and safety concern. Under no circumstances should students be arriving to school wearing false nails. Thank you for your support.
- Students are not permitted to wear jewellery in school, as per the uniform policy. If students are wearing jewellery to school they risk having this confiscated. Thank you for your support.

- Students may only wear one set of earrings. Any other piercings, including additional ear piercings and nose piercings are not permitted in school. These pose a health and safety risk. Students should not get any new piercings during term time; they will be asked to remove this in school.

Summer Exams - How to support your young person in preparation for their exams

After the may half term students will sit their exams, students should be revising throughout the year to ensure they stay on top of the content. We do this alongside Yr7 in the same format and it has proven to be a good stepping stone to prepare our young people to experience an exam period. Students will receive an exam timetable and location where they will sit their exams. Those with access arrangements will be catered for and all students will be spoken to about exam protocol.

Next term we will be focusing our form time activities working through revision strategies and how to prepare for exams and in lessons there will be subject specific revision.

We are consistently encouraging practice to embed routines of revising so that students are prepared and well equipped for future examinations.

On the year 8 google classroom page students will find ways to revise and blank copy of revision resources to use. At Poynton high school we use the 3Ps

1. Preparation – creating a revision resource
2. Performance – testing themselves
3. Progress – did they improve or get better in a test – if not let's look at a different strategy

Important dates

School closes for Easter – Friday 4th April 3.15pm

School re-opens – Wednesday 23rd April (week 2 timetable)

Parents Evening (face to face) – Thursday 1st May (4-7pm)

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 Wednesday 23rd April.

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Thank you for your continued support.

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