



Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope this bulletin finds you and your families safe and well. This half term has been 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. Next half term will be an important one for the Year 9s, with their exams taking place straight after Easter and the GCSE options process completed. Thank you for your support for the students during this options process. Inside this bulletin you will find updates from different subject areas:

Exams

- The Year 9 exams will take place after the Easter break, from Wednesday 23rd April- Friday 25th April
- The exam timetable has been posted onto the Year 9 page on Google Classroom, along with some revision guidance, and blank revision resources.
- The students should be prepared for the exams starting; they have had an assembly last week focusing on the exam period, expectations and the revision process. Form time has been collapsed for two weeks to ensure students could prepare revision resources. It would be advisable to complete some revision over the Easter break.
- The Year 9 exams will take place in the hall and gym, as per the formal GCSE examinations. This is to give our students the opportunity to sit the exams in the same way they will at GCSE.
- The Year 9 exams will be sat under formal exam conditions and with formal exam processes, such as the seating plans being published online beforehand and displayed outside the hall, mobile phones will be expected to be handed in, bags left at the side of the hall and only see through pencil cases can be used.
- Student will need to ensure they have the correct equipment for the exam inside a clear pencil case or plastic wallet.

English

Students are wrapping up their study of words in wartime with a particular focus on WW1 poetry, looking at poets such as Wilfred Owen, Rupert Brooke and Jessie Pope. We also looked at the effect of war on culture, reading Katherine Mansfield's short story 'The Fly' as an example of modernist fiction. In Term 2 we challenged pupils to become even more confident and independent writers, across a range of contexts, as we prepare students for the demands of Key Stage 4.

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 one of his most famous plays, 'Romeo and Juliet'.

Challenge your child by encouraging them to research Shakespeare and the story of 'Romeo and Juliet' ahead of the summer term.

Maths

The end of year exams are fast approaching after Easter. The best way to revise for maths is to DO MATHS. Sparx is our new home learning platform on which students can practice skills and get immediate feedback. Revision lists for the exams are on google classroom with corresponding Sparx codes for each topic. These codes are inputted on the independent learning section of Sparx – this section is visible on the left-hand menu after logging in. If a student has any questions please encourage them to speak to their class teacher.

Intermediate Maths Challenge

Well done to all participants who got Gold, Silver and Bronze awards. Our year 9 students were in competition with Year 10 students so to get awards is very impressive.

Science

This half term students in Y9 have completed their third 3 topics of Y9, these were

Biology: Ecology

Chemistry: Atomic Structure and the periodic table

Physics: Particles

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.

In preparation for their end of year exams students have been set centrally on Seneca assignments to complete for Biology/Chemistry and Physics. These are for students to complete over Easter in preparation for their end of year exam. This is something they can use independently as well as completing the assignments set by their teachers. A checklist has also been uploaded onto their GC page for Biology/Chemistry and physics showing students which topics they need to revise.

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 year 9 will study the topic of Our Living World with a detailed introduction to ecosystems and the challenges that face people living in the grasslands of Mongolia and the Arctic tundra.

Year 9 are also preparing for their end of year assessment based on Population, development, natural hazards and migration and in lessons we will be looking at tasks to 'Geog Your Memory' as well as revision clocks and creating revision cards of key terms where needed. There is information on the student's Google Classroom pages with links to revision topics and advice on how to answer questions in a geographical style.

As our students have made the choices about their GCSE Options it is always worth looking at where geography can take you in terms of potential careers <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/groups/c0rx344r1g5t> This link has lots of ideas but remember, we are such a dynamic and evolving subject that the job you end up doing might not have even been invented yet!

There is always something exciting to watch and read to enhance our student's 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 from David Attenborough and Simon Reeve documentaries.

History

Year 9 students have completed the units on the Holocaust this half term and have completed some revision for their end of Key Stage 3 History exam. This exam will take place immediately after the Easter holidays and will cover all of the Year 9 course, which includes, the causes of World War One, how World War One was fought, why Hitler became Chancellor of Germany, the causes of World War Two and the Holocaust. Once students have completed the exam all students will be moving on to our new topic which will be on the Civil Rights Movement in the USA.

Please encourage your young person to continue with their revision and this could be by creating revision clocks, spider diagrams, flash cards, or by completing quizzes on BBC bitesize. Students should look at their Google Classroom page for more information on the topics to revise.

In preparation for our new topic students could research into some of the key figures of the American Civil Rights Movement, for example Martin Luther King, Rosa Parks or Malcolm X. The following websites are good places to start:

Brittanica.com

Computing

Year 9 students have been introduced to Python this half term. Python is a computer programming language often used to build websites and software, automate tasks, and analyse data. It is the language students will be using if they have opted for GCSE Computer Science.

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

Product Design

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

The next project that students will take part in is 'Biomimicry'. Students will work in teams to create an example of nature inspired design and will use animals as part of their inspiration linking to Biomimicry.



Textiles and food and nutrition

In Food lessons students have been focusing on a variety of different cooking methods. Next term students will be producing the following practical's, fajitas, cookies and chicken goujons. 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

In Textiles students have been using the sewing machine and are making their products. After the Easter break students will finish off the manufacture of their products and begin the t-shirt project.

PE

- 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

Other News from Around School:

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 and ensure they have the correct equipment for their exams.
 - Pens – blue or black
 - Red pen
 - Pencil
 - Ruler
 - Protractor
 - Pair of compasses
 - Calculator
 - Rubber
 - Reading book

Uniform

- Thank you for continuing to support our uniform policy
- After Easter, students should not be wearing coats instead of their blazers.
- 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.
- 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.

Exams

For the last fortnight, Year 9 have had a collapsed form time activity schedule, allowing them to focus on the 'Preparation' stage of revision, completing a range of revision activities in registration.

- Last week's assembly gave the Year 9 students the opportunity to see the Hall set up for examinations and to get a feel for what this will be like for them. The assembly outlined expectations, guidance and talked through revision. This has been uploaded to the Google Classroom Year page.



Year 9 Examinations



The effort you put in is directly linked to the progress you make

Key Information

- Week Commencing 23rd April (First day back after the Easter holidays)
- There will be two exams per day – Except for Thursday where you will have 3.
- All exams will be 1 hour, with the exception of Science (1hr 30)
- Students will be in lessons as normal after the exams, and have Break and Lunch at the normal time except for on Thursday (1:20pm – 2pm)
- Students should arrive at their exam 10 minutes before it starts.
- You will go straight to the exam - Hall or gym in the morning not registration

Inspire

Achieve

Celebrate

Date	Start time	Exam Subject	Duration of exam
Wednesday 23 rd April	Period 1 - 9.05 AM	History	1 HOUR
	Lesson 2 as normal		
	Period 3 - 11.30 AM	RS	1 HOUR
Thursday 24 TH APRIL	Period 1 - 9:05AM	English	1 HOUR
	Lesson 2 as normal		
	Period 3 - 11.30 AM	Geography	1 HOUR
	Lesson 4 - will finish at 1:20pm		
	Lunch - 1:20pm – 2:00pm		
	Period 5 - 2:00 PM	Maths	1 HOUR
FRIDAY 25 th APRIL	9.05 AM	German / Spanish	1 HOUR
	Lesson 2 as normal		
	11:30AM	Science	1 hour 30 mins
Lesson 4 - 1 – 1:35pm			
A seating plan will be issued before the exams. This will also be on Google Classroom for you to access beforehand. You will sit in the same seating plan, in the same room, for all of your exams.			
X HALF - Hall		Y HALF – GYM	
Some students will sit their exams in a different, smaller room, which will allow for additional exam arrangements			

Exam Expectations

- Our expectations of you during the Year 9 exams will be the same as for the GCSE exams
- You will have a seating plan for the exam room and must sit in your allocated seat
- Your phone must be switched off and in your bag, your pockets must be empty and you cannot wear a watch
- You must be silent as soon as you enter the exam hall
- Your pencil case must be clear and any water bottles must be clear with no labels
- You must follow all instructions from the invigilators
- You must adhere to the guidelines

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 Wednesday 23rd April

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Thank you for your continued support.

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