



Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope this bulletin finds you and your families safe and well. 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.

### **Maths**

This term, year 9 have explored ratio and proportion topics. They started with direct and inverse proportion written and graphical problems which have many real life links such as currency conversion graphs. Students also looked at best buy problems to see maths in the weekly food shop. The real life theme continued into speed, distance time graphs and calculations. Most recently, students have reviewed calculating probabilities and extended their knowledge with probability trees and complex scenarios.

The birthday paradox, also known as the birthday problem, states that in a random group of 23 people, there is about a 50 percent chance that two people have the same birthday! In a room of 75 there's even a 99.9% chance of two people matching.

### **Science**

Students have been given feedback on their Y9 exam and have filled in an analysis grid. They have been set follow up tasks to complete on GC on areas they have identified that they need to improve on.

In the next half term students will be completing the following topics:

Biology: The Environment

Chemistry: Bonding

Physics: Forces

### **Religious Studies**

Year 9 have now started their GCSE and have begun working through the first Christianity topic of Festivals and Worship, which they will continue with until the end of the year.

Parents/carers can encourage their young person to discuss at home what they have learned each lesson and help them build on their understanding of key ideas.

As a challenge they could create a revision resource for each lesson, such as a revision card on mini mind map to help them start collecting valuable revision resources ahead of the GCSE at the end of Key Stage 4.

## **Geography**

### Coming up next half term

In their geography lessons, year 9 have completed the topic of the USA – physical hazards and human issues and will now be moving onto the topic of our Living World where they will study the life in the grasslands of Mongolia as well as marine ecosystems and tropical rainforests. The skills learned here will either help them greatly as they prepare to join us next year for GCSE or as they study other subjects as global citizens.

### How you can support your young person

As always discussions about global events, natural and physical are important and ensuring that they complete all tasks in class and are always interested in these events will help us greatly in school.

### A stretch and challenge task for over half term

We always encourage our students to be curious about the world they live in and to watch TV programmes that show them different cultures and landscapes that we study. The BBC series Race Across the World certainly does that <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m0029sst/race-across-the-world-series-5-episode-1> In the latest series, five couples will race from north eastern China all the way to the southernmost tip of India – Kanyakumari - a pilgrimage site where three mighty seas converge. They will have to navigate the two most populous countries in the world – India and China, which both have populations of over 1.4 billion people and counting. With over 700 languages spoken in India alone, they will also have to navigate crowds, congestion and cultural barriers, as well as a multitude of vast-ranging landscapes. Well worth a watch and a discussion!

## **History**

Year 9 students have completed their summer examination this half term and demonstrated their knowledge of 20th Century conflict very well. They have now begun studying the GCSE History course. Students have shown a real interest in the civil rights movement in America and have been developing a good understanding of the challenges facing African Americans in the 1950s.

### How can I support my young person

Students should be aiming to keep their work as organised as possible as their exercise books will continue to be used in Year 10 for those opting for GCSE History. It would be appreciated if parents could encourage students to use the half term to make sure worksheets are stuck in and exercise books are kept in a safe place.

### Stretch and Challenge activity

Students could find out about some of the protests held in Britain to improve racial equality. For example, The Bristol Bus Boycott of 1963 and the response to the Murder of Kelso Cochrane.

## Product Design

After studying biomimicry for half a term, Year 9 students have gained a profound understanding of how nature's designs can inspire innovative solutions to human problems. They have explored real-world examples like Velcro and bullet trains. This experience has not only deepened their knowledge of biology and engineering but also fostered an appreciation for sustainability and creative problem-solving. The students are now more aware of the potential that nature holds in shaping a sustainable future.

As part of students making this half term we have focussed on making a glider taking inspiration from biomimicry principles. Students were encouraged to have high level solutions from low tech inspiration.

## Food and Nutrition and Textiles

In Food lessons students have been focusing on a variety of different cooking methods and practical's have included, fajitas, blueberry muffins and cheesecake. Please be reminded that students 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 manufacturing their bucket hats using the sewing machine. After the half term break students will continue to manufacture their products using the sewing machine and decorate their products chosen method of embellishment. There will also be an opportunity for the early finishers to design and make their own t-shirt design.

## 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

- 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
- Exercise books for lessons
- It would also be handy to have scissors and glue!
- To get into good habits, students should pack bags the night before to ensure they have everything for the next day

### **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 2<sup>nd</sup> June.

If you have any queries about anything school related, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Thank you for your continued support.

**Jodie Hancock**

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