

Poynton High School and Performing Arts College

Information for Applicants



INSPIRE

ACHIEVE

CELEBRATE

Poynton High School and Performing Arts College

Yew Tree Lane • Poynton • Cheshire • SK12 1PU

<https://www.phs.cheshire.sch.uk>

WELCOME FROM HEADTEACHER

Thank you for your interest in working at our school. Poynton High is a great school, full of inspirational young people and exceptionally talented staff. As Head Teacher I am proud to have such a supportive, expert and engaged staff team and I hope that you will wish to move forward on your application and look to join us in due course.

Our school has served the families of Poynton, Disley, Adlington and surrounding areas since 1972 and we lie at the heart of this community's learning needs. We pride ourselves in our vision as a school which serves our whole community and which works in partnership with our colleagues in other schools. We have approximately 1380 students in Years 7 to 13 and offer a wide range of A levels in our successful Sixth Form. We are very proud of our academic success and the significant progress that students make from the time they join us.

The opportunities for career development are extensive through our "T&L CPD @ PHS" programme and our "Leadership CPD @ PHS" programme. These CPD programmes will support your development as a practitioner in the classroom and as a leader in school. Alongside personalised CPD and support through your mentor, all teaching staff also receive their own Microsoft Surface Pro to aid the quality of teaching and learning in your classroom.

Our staff support our students in an extra-ordinary range of ways and at the heart of this lies our House System. Every member of staff and every student is in one of our four Houses and we have an extensive programme of House Activities on offer; from House Water Polo to House Fishing, from House General Knowledge to House Dragons Den; as well as the traditional football, rugby, lacrosse, athletics, basketball, etc.

The school motto is INSPIRE ACHIEVE CELEBRATE and we apply that to every element of school life. Our role as staff is to ensure that we inspire every student to achieve the best they possibly can in everything they do, whether that be academic, sporting, cultural or spiritual and at the heart of our culture is a celebration of that achievement. We hope that as a prospective member of staff you will share our mission to "...inspire and empower all within our learning community to fulfil their individual potential and ambitions so that all are able to be active and successful citizens in our global society".

Our students and our staff are our greatest resource and we were very pleased that Ofsted formally recognised this in our most recent inspection in December 2015 saying that our "...teachers know their pupils well. This allows them to use their subject expertise to question pupils very effectively to extend their learning and check understanding, knowledge and skill development."

Poynton High School is a very calm and purposeful learning environment and our students are exceptionally engaged in their learning and the life of their school. "...most pupils demonstrate very positive attitudes to learning by their interest and enthusiasm in class and their participation in a wide range of enrichment activities. Pupils are generally confident and feel well cared for. They are proud of their school (Ofsted Dec 2015)."

I would encourage you to visit our website (www.phs.cheshire.sch.uk) to get a better understanding of life here at Poynton High and if you have any questions that you would like to ask please do not hesitate to contact me directly on mdean@phs.cheshire.sch.uk. I very much hope that you want to join our team and I look forward to receiving an application from you in due course.

Mr Matthew Dean
Head Teacher; Poynton High School

THE TRUE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP

This is an exciting time to be joining our School. In December 2018, Poynton High School and Lostock Hall Primary School became the founding partners of The TRUE Learning Partnership (TTLP). In April 2020, Disley Primary School joined the Trust followed by Hague Bar Primary School and Glossopdale School at the end of 2020.

Karen Tomlinson, Chair of the Trust Board, explains "Our vision is a community based, values focussed, learning organisation that meets the needs of all its members so that all will achieve. We will serve our communities with an unswerving commitment to ensure every student achieves their goals, whatever their circumstances.

In keeping our vision, values and principles at the forefront of all that we do, by working in partnership we increase the opportunities for staff, students and the wider community across our schools through training and sharing good practice; sharing systems and joining resources; sharing success and celebrating school achievements; and ultimately improving our schools and communities. "

ONE PHASE of learning

ONE PHASE of care

ONE PHASE of support



www.truelearning.org.uk

OUR STUDENTS

Our school provides a warm and caring, yet challenging and motivating, learning environment for all students on their journey to success. Our staff are key to ensuring that every student feels part of our community and is able to reach their full potential.

In Year 7, as part of the transition and settling in period, students focus on balancing their wide ranging academic studies with the great number of extra-curricular opportunities available, allowing them to “jump in with both feet”. In Years 8 and 9 students will work towards achieving their “Cultural Passport”, an opportunity to demonstrate the wider knowledge and understanding needed in order to be successful in our ever-changing world.

Alongside GCSEs in Years 10 and 11, our students’ wider knowledge is further enhanced through learning about personal finance, careers and enterprise opportunities and, crucially, how to revise and prepare for external examinations effectively. Throughout their time with us, students are supported by our exceptional staff and are challenged to achieve - academically and culturally, physically and spiritually - in whatever it

is they set their heart on achieving. Here at Poynton High we ensure that every single young person will be celebrated in that achievement, every step of the way.

We dedicate time to listening to student views through our Student Voice programme, where groups of students are asked their views on a variety of subjects affecting school life. These views then feed into the changes that are made to our processes. Each form has an elected representative who takes an active part in year group discussions. Our students are keen to get involved in the work of the school and are proud to take on this responsibility.

Our strong links to the local primary schools gives our students the opportunity to go and support their events in the community such as Sports Days where they are act as sports ambassadors to inspire the younger students.

We are very proud of our school community and all staff and students have an important part to play in our continued growth and success.



OUR STAFF

We are exceptionally proud of our staff and the dedication they display every day to support our students to reach their potential. Whether a member of our Leadership Team, Teaching Staff or Support Team – all have a vital role to play in providing an environment where all can achieve.

We offer highly competitive salaries, pension scheme membership, free on-site parking and regular social events. All staff are able to access discounted gym memberships and other negotiated benefits across the partnership.

All new Staff who join us will have a full induction and will be paired up with an existing member of staff to support them in their first few months of employment. This is usually a member of a different departmental team to encourage all staff to feel part of the whole school community, not just part of their own smaller faculty areas. The induction process is for all staff and is tailored to the needs of each individual.

New teachers at the start of their teaching career are well supported through the NQT and RQT process and we are pleased that many staff have stayed with us throughout their teaching careers, enhancing their skills and developing their pedagogy through our ongoing training offer.

We work closely with a variety of Higher Education Institutions and schools to offer trainee teacher placements across the curriculum through PGCE and School Direct courses. We have a dedicated

and experienced Director of Learning for Initial Teacher Training based at Poynton High School who coordinates and leads this important school function.

As the founding member of The TRUE Learning Partnership, we are at the heart of the CPD@TTLP programme which enables all of our staff to access development opportunities across the Trust. Future goals and aspirations are supported through this programme to ensure that all staff are able to develop and achieve their own personal goals.

Staff wellbeing is a key priority for us as supporting all of our staff enables them to support all of our students. Our Director of Health and Wellbeing leads this key area working with senior staff across the multi academy trust. Each school has Student and Staff Committees focused on welfare and wellbeing for all. We are very pleased that our commitment to staff wellbeing has been recognised by the Valued Worker scheme which offers accreditation to workplaces where staff feel valued.

We are also committed to supporting mental health in the workplace by training a number of staff across school to be Mental Health First Aiders and through our work with the Time to Change programme which aims to end mental health discrimination in the workplace.



let's end mental health discrimination

OUR VISION AND VALUES

Poynton High School is a very special school where the whole school team passionately believe in creating a school that truly meets the needs of all in our learning community. This is embodied in our mission statement which serves to guide us in the long term planning for our school.

Our Mission

"We will inspire and empower all in our learning community to fulfil their individual potential and ambitions so that all are able to be active and successful citizens in our global society"

This can be summed up in three words, INSPIRE ACHIEVE CELEBRATE and is applied to every aspect of our work. We aim to inspire our young people in all of our work so that they may achieve their full potential and at the heart of this lies a truly celebratory culture; we aim to inspire our team, so that you can achieve, and we celebrate every achievement for everyone - staff and student.

OUR ENVIRONMENT

Poynton High School's campus includes first class facilities across the whole curriculum. Our history as a Performing Arts College means we have extensive facilities for Drama and Dance. This includes a professional, large well-equipped Dance studio and a number of other purpose-built spaces; a Drama studio, Performing Arts studio, two recording studios and several practice rooms. The School Hall is fitted with retractable tiered seating and has lighting and curtains to transform it into a theatre for public performances.

We are also well equipped for students to enjoy and build confidence through team sports and to develop their own fitness and wellbeing, with a sports hall, gymnasium, tennis courts, squash courts, a newly opened outdoor gym and football and rugby pitches. We have a close relationship with Poynton Leisure Centre which shares our site and provides access to additional sporting facilities.

We have a strong drive to be more eco-friendly and are working closely with our restaurant team and the uniform developers to drive down waste and reduce the use of non-recyclable plastics. Our staff and students are at the heart of this commitment and we are proud of the progress we are making towards this target.





PASTORAL CARE

The transition between primary school and Poynton High School is an important part of the student journey. Our experienced and caring team regularly visit our feeder primary schools to ensure smooth transfer for students moving up from Year 6 to Year 7.

We start to build these relationships with students in Year 5 so we already have a good understanding of the new student intake and their individual needs. We invite all of our prospective students to visit our school to get to know their future teachers and support staff, get used to our very exciting learning facilities and to settle the nerves that often come with moving to a new school.

We have run lots of different sessions throughout the last few years with pupils from our local primary schools covering subjects such as coding, library-based mysteries and sporting competitions of every kind supported by our Sports Ambassadors.



A key part of our transition programme is our Year 6 residential to Anglesey where we start to build our new students' confidence, expand their friendships across all feeder school groups and allow them to get to know our transition support staff and some of their future teachers. We try and get as many staff as possible involved in these activities, especially those who will become Year 7 form tutors and will work closely with this cohort of students moving forward.



Each student belongs to both a form group and a school house and will stay with the same form tutor throughout Years 7 to 13. Their progress and welfare is also supported by their Director of Learning and a dedicated non-teaching Student Welfare Officer. As a large school we are able to bring together a great number of support staff to help our students through their teenage years. We have an Emotional Health and Wellbeing Centre based onsite, a state of the art medical room, access to CAMHS workers, family support workers, first aid officers and intervention managers.



Our Learning Support team is multi-skilled, made up of a large number of experienced learning support assistants who provide specialist intervention in lessons, at lunchtimes and after school. We are very proud to be an inclusive school and we welcome students with a wide range of needs.

CURRICULUM

We are proud of our curriculum which:

- Enables all students to make progress from their starting point
- Promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of our students
- Celebrates inclusive academic achievement and promotes a love of scholarship
- Is underpinned by knowledge whilst enabling students to develop the skills essential in each subject
- Allows all students to experience a rich and broad range of subjects from Year 7-13
- Helps to prepare our young people for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of a changing world
- Supports students in their transition from primary to secondary education and to their future pathways beyond school

Key Stage 3 – Years 7-9

The three years of Key Stage 3 provide a broad introduction to the knowledge and skills that students need for success. All students continue with the key National Curriculum subjects, and non-NC subjects such as drama and dance, for the full three years. This ensures that our students' pathways are kept open and students do not narrow their academic choices too early. Subjects make use of intelligent planning to ensure that there is a seamless pathway from Year 7 to 13 without the curriculum being narrowed too early.

As a school we choose to teach students in subjects rather than in cross-curricular themes. This enables subject specialists to extend students more effectively than generalists. Alongside this we develop students as learners and in Years 7 and 8 students benefit from a Library lesson to develop information literacy skills and a love of reading and a period of Learn to Learn where students learn metacognition skills which will then be applied in their other lessons.

Key Stage 4

Our curriculum is planned to have a strong academic core. All students study Mathematics, English Language, English Literature, Science and Religious Studies to full GCSE. At least 28 out of 50 periods will be spent studying these subjects. Additionally, they must also select either a Humanities or a Modern Foreign Language. Most students will choose additional academic subjects as part of their options.

We remain committed to giving students the chance to study four additional subjects on top of the compulsory subjects. This enables students to specialise and maintain their interest in creative and practical courses. Students can select more vocational courses such as Cambridge Nationals in Creative iMedia and Sport Studies or the BTEC Tech Award in Enterprise. These are popular alternatives to the GCSEs offered in those departments.

Sixth Form

We have also ensured protection of our Sixth Form curriculum provision, again believing that a well-developed post-16 pathway locally provided by our own expert staff is the best option for a significant number of our students.

Most students will take three A Levels for the two years. We believe that this is the best way for them to achieve their full potential at A Level. A number will combine this with either a fourth A Level or with an Extended Project Qualification.

To meet the needs of our learners the curriculum is largely academic but with the option for students of studying for Level 3 BTEC qualifications in Sport, Health and Social Care, IT or Business.



EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Here at Poynton High School we are passionate in ensuring all students get involved in the wider life of school. We have high expectations of our students in their academic studies and we mirror that beyond the classroom. Every student will have access to a truly phenomenal amount of extra-curricular opportunities. All activities in school attract "House Points" where students compete together to gain points for their House in order to win the "House Cup" presented at the end of year whole school assembly.

Our staff are committed to this provision and it is valued highly by the students and parents who can clearly see the benefits gained through this offer. Involvement in these activities is encouraged for all of our staff and we are always looking for new ways to enhance the opportunities we offer to all our students from Year 7 – 13.

We have a fantastic Performance Faculty who offers a thriving and well attended extra-curricular programme, with clubs in Dance, Drama and Music taking place at all Key Stages, providing all students with the opportunity to further their interests, skills and to enjoy the arts. Students also have the opportunity to attend residential courses, specialist arts projects and trips.

We offer an extensive range of extra-curricular PE clubs at school both at lunchtime and after school and we strive to ensure that these are fully inclusive to all students and cater for all abilities. Staff from across the school are keen to get involved in participating and delivering these sessions.

We have subject-based clubs running alongside the school curriculum, building on the academic studies and focused on developing a love of subjects. These include MFL Film Club, Science Club and Debating Clubs in both lower school and Sixth Form. Scratch and computer based clubs are incredibly popular with our students throughout school.

We are proud of the fact that so many of our students take part in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme through the school and that we are one of the largest centres for the Award in the North West. This programme is led in school by our Duke of Edinburgh coordinator but he is well supported on the many expeditions by staff from across the school who enjoy it almost as much as the students!

POYNTON HIGH SCHOOL SIXTH FORM

Our Sixth Form has an established reputation and consistently achieves excellent results at A Level and Level 3 BTEC. Students are taught both in the main school and in our state of the art Sixth Form centre, opened in September 2012. This provides students with the perfect environment in which to continue their academic journey to Higher Education, training or employment. Results are outstanding at A Level, having improved in each of the last 5 years. In summer 2019 we were awarded an SSAT award for results being within the top 20% of all Sixth Form results nationally for A Level.

Students receive individualised pastoral care within a tutor group and also receive specialised UCAS, Apprenticeship or employment advice. Around 80% of our students move onto university, with around 50% of these accepting places at Russell Group universities. Many other students are successful in securing either level 3 apprenticeships at top national companies or choosing to enter the world of work on receiving their A Level and BTEC grades.

Our Sixth Form welcomes students from both Poynton High School and other local schools, who are committed to learning and achievement and who will make a positive contribution to the life of our school. We encourage all students to take advantage of the opportunities offered by an 11- 19 community and build their leadership and communication skills as they learn.

We believe the Sixth Form experience should be enjoyable and stimulating, providing opportunities for students to gain the qualifications, skills and attitudes which will enable them to shape their futures positively and will equip them to be lifelong learners.

Our programme of study offers opportunities to gain qualifications and employment skills which are matched to the needs of the individual students and which prepare them for their future lives.

Students may study A Level courses, Level 3 BTEC courses or a combination of both as part of their overall programme of study. Students can complement their studies by participating in the Career Ready Programme or develop an interest in greater depth by completing an Extended Project Qualification. Alongside these courses we also provide all other required elements to allow students to successfully achieve their full potential. We ensure that they are fully equipped to move beyond their chosen Sixth Form studies in a planned and structured way.



THE TRUE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP: SCHOOL LOCATIONS



Our partnership of primary and secondary schools are located to the south-east of Manchester, close to the natural beauty of the Peak District National Park.

All our schools have excellent road links from the M56, M60, M67, A6, A34 and A57 and nearby railway stations of Poynton, Hadfield, Disley and New Mills Central.

For those travelling from further afield, both Stockport railway station on the West Coast mainline and Manchester Airport are nearby.

More information about Poynton High School can be found on our school website:

<https://www.phs.cheshire.sch.uk>