



5<sup>th</sup> of March 2018

Dear Parent/Carer,

In response to feedback from parents, pupils and staff gathered over the course of the autumn term we have decided to change the way we approach homework for pupils in year 7.

As part of our new approach pupils will no longer be set homework tasks from most subjects but will instead complete a skills based project over the course of this half term. The project has been carefully designed to target development of skills that are essential for GCSE. These skills are taught to pupils in year 7 in their Discover skills lessons. The Discover More project will provide pupils with the opportunity to further develop and consolidate these skills.

The project for this half term has been designed to last four weeks and has been split up into a number of shorter tasks. The project has a Science theme to coincide with national Science week that will be celebrated in school next week. The project overview is outlined below this letter.

In order to give pupils opportunity to develop their digital skills in line with the Digital Competency Framework the project will be completed online using Office 365. Each pupil will be shown how to log in during a special registration period on Tuesday of this week. The digital notebook on Office 365 will contain specific instructions for each task together with helpful resources and templates that can be used to support completion of the tasks. The notebook can be accessed using any computer, laptop, smartphone or tablet device.

We fully understand that not every pupil will have access to digital devices at home. There is opportunity for pupils to access a homework club every Wednesday from 3pm-5pm where they will be able to use computers should they wish to complete the project there. There is also a late bus that runs after the homework club. Paper copies of the tasks can be made available for pupils who wish to complete the project in this format.

In addition to the project the only other homework tasks that should be set for year 7 pupils are spelling words to learn from English and mathswatch tasks from mathematics.

As this is the first time we have run a project in this manner we would be very grateful for any feedback you might have as the project develops and indeed at the end. Please feel free to email me your comments at any time. I will also send out a multiple-choice questionnaire at the end. We are fully expecting our approach to be evaluated, refined and developed as we continue into the summer term.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss the project further please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Yours faithfully

*Mrs L Dober*

Mrs L Dober  
[DoberL@pontyhigh.co.uk](mailto:DoberL@pontyhigh.co.uk)

## Discover More Project One Overview

**Project Title:** Smart Meters – why do we need them and what are they?

**Project Deadline:** 29<sup>th</sup> March 2018

**Key Information:** Your project will be broken down into four sections. You are advised to complete one section per week. Each section will take approximately 1 hour.

**Your Task:** You are an employee of Western Power Energy Company. You have been asked to carry out a research project on whether Smart Meters are:

- a) useful
- b) accurate
- c) value for money

Your task will be to investigate the energy usage in your home. You will look at all the major electrical appliances used in your home and calculate the amount of energy each uses. You will then estimate the length of time each appliance is used for in 24hrs.

### **Project Overview:**

#### **Section One: Understanding Smart Meters**

**Week 1** - Researching Smart Meters

#### **Section Two: Data Collection**

**Week 2** - Recording the use of key appliances around the house  
- Calculating the amount of energy used by each appliance/your home over the 5 day period.

#### **Section Three: Presenting Data**

**Week 3** - Present data on how much energy each appliance used in a bar chart (excel or graph paper)  
- Carry out an analysis of the data you have collected.

#### **Section Four: The Conclusion**

**Week 4** - This will be an extended writing task that will allow you to present your findings, explore how Smart Meters are used and give your opinions on the benefits of Smart Meters, based on your findings.

### **Extra Info:**

All work should be completed in your Office 365 account. You can type into worksheets, editing them as necessary. Graphs can be completed using excel, or graph paper. If graph paper is required, please ask your Science teacher. If you complete your work on graph paper, please photograph it and upload it to your Office 365 account.

