## **Friday 23rd February 2024**

# HEADTEACHER’S MESSAGE

One of the key aspects of the work of a school is ensuring that we provide students with the knowledge, skills and qualifications which will allow them to to move on to the next stage of their lives. One part of this is ensuring that students are aware of the many opportunities available to them once they leave school.

We do not leave this to chance. We have over 40 organisations coming to our annual Careers Fair including local, national and international employers, apprenticeship providers, further education colleges and universities. All students will get the opportunity to go to the Careers Fair and talk directly with staff from these organisations. It’s an excellent opportunity for students to gain an insight into potential careers they may want to pursue and to inspire them in their studies.

**Mark McKelvie**

**Headteacher**

# GENERAL NOTICES

**National Careers Week**

As part of National Careers Week, we have the following events taking place in school:

**Event:** **Year 10 Mock Interviews with Bradford University**

40 selected Year 10 students will get chance to take part in a realistic and insightful interview experience with ambassadors from Bradford University. We are certain that this experience will help empower our young people and develop some critical employability skills.

**Date:** Tuesday 27th February

**Location:** Drama Studio

**Time:** 8.50am - 3pm

**Event: Careers Fair**

A range of volunteers from universities, colleges, apprenticeship providers and employers will be attending the Fair. We feel that this is a perfect complement to our young peoples’ studies and personal development. Each student will get 30 minutes to navigate around the Careers Fair which will allow students to speak to volunteers and find out about the opportunities that each organisation offers, including how to apply. This is a whole school event and every year group will have the opportunity to attend.

**Date:** Wednesday 28th February

**Time:** 8.50am - 3pm

**Event: Careers Carousel - Year 8.**

A range of volunteers who are experts within their industry fields will be coming into school to deliver a short workshop to Year 8 students, about their career journeys**.**Your child will have the opportunity to ask the volunteers questions and will complete an activity with the volunteers as a class. The aim of the experience is to help students gainmore information about different career pathways and industries. We also hope that this will support with boosting their employability skills.

**Date:** Thursday 29th February

**Time:** 10am - 12.20pm

**Event: Careers Panel**

The panel will consist of professionals from a range of different sectors. The experience is designed to empower young people and expose them to different career pathways and opportunities and will be attended by Year 7 and Year 9. Some of the key skills students will develop during the session are:

* Interpersonal skills
* Confidence in public speaking
* Active listening

**Date:** Tuesday 5th March

**Time:** P1 - Year 9, P2 - Year 7

**Students Involved:**All Year 9, all Year 7

Ella Kenny

Careers Advisor & Enrichment Lead

Pudsey Grammar School

**Meet your Army: Army Engagement**

Meet your Army - to understand who they are, what they do and why they do it. This free event is hosted by the Army to delve into what they do for local communities and their activity across the city.

If your child could be interested in a future career in the Army - join this exciting event, a unique opportunity to engage with the Army directly and gain insights into their work. During the networking part of the evening, you will have a chance to interact with army personnel supporting your curiosity of this career.

Date: Wednesday 28th Feb

Time: 6.30-9pm

Location: Elland Road Stadium LS11 0ES

Agenda: Arrival reception, 45 min presentation, Q+A session, light buffet supper and networking.

Ticket:<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/leeds-meet-your-army-the-army-engagement-group-tickets-788922778267?aff=ebdshpsearchautocomplete>

I hope this evening supports future pathways.

Enjoy!

Mrs Burgum

Assistant Headteacher

**Year 7, 8 and 9 History Club: Mind-Blowing Myths**

Have you ever wondered about the fascinating stories that echo through time? How Gods walked amongst us? How Heroes slayed monsters that struck fear in to the hearts of men? How civilisations were destroyed in the blink of an eye? If so… Embark on a captivating journey though time with our History Club- where myths come alive! Join fellow enthusiasts in unravelling the mysteries of ancient civilisations as we explore the myths and legends which have shaped cultures over eons. Immerse yourself in the tales of Gods, Heroes and Fantastical Creatures and unearth the hidden gems of History by indulging in thought provoking discussions around the significance of this mythology. Expand your knowledge, make new connections, and let the past ignite your imagination in the History Club, where myths and reality collide.

Are you ready to question reality? If so, then be at room 114 from 3pm-4pm fortnightly on Tuesdays, with our next session on 27th February, delving into the story of the Death of Osiris. Please see Mr Alderson or email r.alderson@pudseygrammar.co.uk if you have any further queries.

Mr Alderson

Assistant Subject Leader of History and Social Sciences

**Guest Speaker – Debating**

Next Tuesday 27th February, the PGS Debating Society will be visited by Paul Thomas. Paul Thomas is the co-founder of The Leeds Salon - a pioneering discussion forum for young people in the West Yorkshire area. He brings with him a wealth of experience in running and judging debate competitions. During the session, Paul will provide students with the experience of what it's like to enter a formal debate competition and provide tips and ideas to those wishing to improve their debating skills. There will also be a mock debate upon a topic.

The PGS Debating Society runs on Tuesdays in room 217 from 3:10p.m onwards.

Mr Connor

Assistant Subject Leader for English (Rhetoric)

**The PGS Book Awards**

The first round of voting for the PGS Book Awards is now closed! We are so impressed with the number of students who have voted so far. Voting will open again on Monday where students will be able to see which books made it to the shortlist and vote for the book they think should win. Students can vote through the PGS Book Awards tile on RM Unify. When a student votes, they gain a point for their House and increase their Form’s chance of winning a prize on World Book Day.

**Online Safety**

The online world is an essential part of our daily lives and learning how to use technology safely is an essential skill for young people. Apps and online gaming are extremely popular but risks are posed and it is important that schools, parents and carers work together to take

an active role in teaching children about online dangers. Learning how to act safely when using the internet is an incredibly important part of safeguarding our children and your role as a parent/carer can make a significant difference.

In order to support families to protect our students online we are working with the National College to provide you with a monthly resource. This will act as a useful short guide covering a range of topics that you may want to engage your child with. **This month offers insight for children with new devices.**

We hope you find these useful each month across the academic year.

Mrs Burgum

Assistant Headteacher

**Reading Tips**

If your child is struggling with what book to read, or hasn't quite found a book they enjoy, there are at least two ways in which we can support you with this. On the school website, (under the parent information/literacy link) there are reading recommendation lists that are targeted at Year 7/8, Year 9, Year 10/11 and Post 16. There are different genres represented on the reading lists and many can be found in our Library.

Secondly, all students have access to the Reading Cloud which can be found on their RM unify login page. This is a great site that allows students to see what we have on offer and recommend books for them.

Finally, I have included some website links for parents to access that can help support your child with their reading. There are some useful tips that may prove useful in encouraging your child to read more.

 <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/skillswise/english/zjg4scw>

<https://www.barringtonstoke.co.uk/books/home-learning-help-pack/>

<https://wordsforlife.org.uk/parent-support/>

Many thanks with your support in encouraging reading.

Mrs Gough

Literacy Co-ordinator

**YEAR 7**

I hope all of the Year 7 students had a relaxing half term break. We have some fantastic events coming up this half term and into the future that we believe are great opportunities for students to further their education:

**World Book Day**

On Thursday 7th March, it is World Book Day. Last summer, 11 PGS students took part in the Leeds Book Awards, where they had the opportunity to read six incredible books. They then voted for their favourite. For World Book Day this year, we will be running our own school award, where Year 7 students will all get the chance to vote for their best book from the longlist they have seen during Form time. All of the longlisted books are available to be borrowed in the Library.

**Leeds Rhinos Foundation Multi-Sports Camp**

Leeds Rhinos Foundation are once again delighted to be able to offer multi-sport camps over this Easter Holidays for just £20. This camp will be held at Crawshaw Academy from Tuesday 2nd April to Friday 5th April, 10am-3pm. The camp, available to 7-14-year-olds living in LS12, LS13 and LS28, headed by highly qualified coaches, will be providing a safe, fun and engaging environment for children to succeed.

# Children will need to wear suitable clothing and footwear for the typical English weather as well as bringing a packed lunch and water bottle! Please be aware that demand will be high.

# The camp will be available to book on Thursday 7th March on the Leeds Rhinos Website. To book your child’s place on the camp please visit tickets.therhinos.co.uk or call the Leeds Rhinos Ticket Line on 0371 423 1315 (Please note a £1.50 booking fee applies).

# Mr Leigh Miss Mathie

Year 7 Director of Studies Year 7 Leader

**YEAR 8**

Year 8 have come back from the half term break with a really refreshed and a much improved attitude to learning from the last term. We want to keep this going throughout the term so they will be able to make really great progress.

**Progress Reports**

The latest Year 8 Progress reports should be published and be ready by next week. Students will be given a paper copy in Form, but will also be sent out electronically by email.

**Uniform**

On the whole, the uniform across the year has been at a very good standard. We are however having issues around girls leggings and skirts. Skirts need to be tailored and knee length and there should be no leggings worn. Any students wearing inappropriate uniform will be asked to change into school's supply of school uniform.

**Year 8 Student voice**

Your child has been set a student voice questionnaire for homework. The student voice is to get their opinion on the marking and feedback they receive from all their lessons. If they are unable to complete this homework they will not receive any sanctions. However, we will be using your feedback to help us quality assure the marking and feedback in the school.

Mr LucasMiss Crosland

Year 8 Director of Studies Year 8 Leader

**YEAR 9**

**Welcome Back**

Year 9 have had a positive first week back. They have come into school looking very smart and ready to learn in lessons. Thank you for your ongoing support with equipment and uniform standards. Please remind students that they can get spare equipment from their Form Tutor each morning if they require it.

**Careers**

In assembly this week, Year 9 were informed about careers support that we have in school. They can access this support by making an appointment via the tile on RM Unify or they can come to me and I can make an appointment for them. These could prove really valuable to any students who would like to discuss career options and how they might link to their GCSE choices.

**Progress Update 2**

Students have received their second progress update report in Form time this week. If you do not have a copy of this, then please contact your child's Form Tutor as they should have it. This will show the current band that students are working at as well as their score for attitude to learning.

**Year 9 Diphtheria, Tetanus and Polio (DTP), and Meningitis (Men ACWY) Immunisations**

The School Immunisation Team will be visiting school on Thursday 28th March 2024 to deliver the Diphtheria, Tetanus and Polio (DTP), and Meningitis (Men ACWY) Immunisations to students in Year 9. If you have not already done so, please complete the online form to give consent or refusal.

How to complete the form:

Go to the website below or click on the following link. This will take you to the online teenage booster vaccination form.

<https://www.leedsimmunisations.co.uk/Forms/DTPMen>

Enter the unique school code for your child’s school. The code for Pudsey Grammar is EE108079 (please ensure you enter all letters and numbers).

**Important:**

 If you do not wish your child to receive the vaccinations, you are still required to complete the “refusal section” on the form so that the immunisations team understand your wishes. If they do not receive a consent or refusal form, your child will be given an opportunity to consent for themselves on the day after being assessed by a nurse as Gillick competent to do so. Many thanks for your co-operation.

Mrs Mitchell Miss Exley

Year 9 Director of Studies Year 9 Leader

**YEAR 10**

Next week, 45 Year 10 students will participate in mock interviews with external advisors. These students have been selected after having had a careers advice session this year. Your child has been informed by their Form Tutor, and all Year 10 students received interview skills and tips during Form time. Other students will have this opportunity later in the year.

Please make a note that the virtual Parents' Evening will be on March 14th. More details to follow.

Miss Legg Miss Birdsall

Year 10 Director of Studies Year 10 Leader

**YEAR 11**

**February Trial Exams**

Well done to all of our students for their efforts during trial exam week. They have demonstrated incredible resilience, ambition and have a shown a real desire for success. On Monday, students will complete the final round of trial exams.

AM Maths Paper 3 [calculator]

PM History/Geography

This will bring the trial exams to a close and students will return back to normal lessons.

**After school tutorials**

Please see the document attached to this message for a timetable for the after school tutorials. As mentioned in the letter we sent out before the half term break, although lessons are the best way to prepare, there are things we can do to supplement this. I would like to encourage all of our Year 11 students to take advantage of this opportunity.

**Year 11 History Intervention**

The History Department will be running its next set of History Intervention sessions on Monday the 26th February. The following two sessions will occur:-

Room 113- 12 Mark Explain Why Exam Technique (Mrs Burgum)

Room 114- Germany 1929-1933 (Mr Alderson)

A timetable with an overview of all of these upcoming sessions, who will run them, their location and their focus can be found linked below. Printed versions of this timetable will also be displayed around the History Department and Year Office for students to refer to. Attendance to these sessions is not mandatory, but is highly encouraged to assist with students making additional progress in History.

Link to Intervention Timetable Overview: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1P0rS0xYbDs-UyvyMOV61q_u367vKzFbJRDvJaxCZ0Is/edit?usp=sharing>

If you have any further questions or queries in regards to these interventions, please do feel free to contact myself at r.alderson@pudseygrammar.co.uk.

**Success for Year 11 Mandarin cohort**

In the summer term of 2023, the then Year 10 (now Year 11) Mandarin cohort attended a nationwide event held in the NIA in Birmingham. This was an opportunity for all Year 10 students of Mandarin in all English schools to get together for a shared learning and cultural

experience. As part of the day, students showcased a video project they had been working on which advertised their local town and area in the Chinese language.

We have recently been informed that, after a thorough judging process by the IOE Confucius Institute, Pudsey Grammar School Students have been awarded with best overall video production. A big well done to our Year 11 Mandarin cohort who are not only breaking new ground being the first ever Mandarin cohort to sit their GCSE exams in the summer, but who have also achieved such a high level of national success. The Mandarin Excellence Programme are providing school with a plaque to mark this success, so be sure to look out for this on your next visit to school.

Mr Syed Mrs Swithenbank

Year 11 Director of Studies Year 11 Leader

**SIXTH FORM**

**Important Dates**

W/c 11th March 2024 – Year 12 & Year 13 Assessment Week #2 (classroom based)

18th April 2024 – Year 12 Parents Evening

**Welcome back!**

Looking ahead, this half term is packed full of opportunities to support learning and curriculum enrichment. Next week we have our annual PGS Careers Fair. There are 50 plus providers attending, including representatives from local employers, apprenticeship providers, colleges and universities which is really exciting! Sixth Form students have access to the fair throughout the day, therefore they can attend whenever is convenient for them (not during a timetabled lesson!). We also suggest that students have copies of their up-to-date CV to hand out at the fair.

In preparation for the assessment week (and beyond), we will be discussing student organisation and revision during Form time w/c 4th March. We will be looking for good examples of organisation and revision, and expectations have been shared and communicated to students this week during Form and assembly. Below is the checklist that has been shared with students this week…

\*An A4 ring binder for each specific subject ORGANISED or Google Classroom evidence

\*Evidence/examples of revision for each subject

\*Evidence of organisation & planning of time (6th Form Planner)

\*A pencil case which includes: pens, pencils, red pens, highlighters, scissors & glue-stick

\*W/board marker and eraser

\*A bag big enough to carry A4 ring binders

\*A lanyard with student ID

**Apprenticeship Opportunity with Adept Consulting Engineers**

We are recruiting for a Civil Engineering Apprentice to join our team of chartered civil and structural engineers at our office in Farsley, whilst working towards a Civil Engineering Technician Apprenticeship with the Leeds College of Building.

We believe in investing in the next generation of talent, and our apprenticeship program is designed to provide hands-on experience and valuable skills in Civil and Structural Engineering. The apprenticeship includes:

\*Hands-on Training:

They will have the opportunity to work directly with experienced professionals in our team, gaining practical skills and knowledge in Civil and Structural Engineer

\*Real-World Projects:

They will work on real-world projects, allowing them to apply their learning in a professional setting. We are looking for motivated and enthusiastic students who are eager to learn and grow in Civil and Structural Engineering.

Please find more information about the apprenticeship in the link below, including eligibility criteria, application process and important dates.

<https://www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk/apprenticeship/1000226885>

Mrs Smith Ms Nota

Post 16 Director of Studies Attendance and Pastoral Support

Miss Robinson Miss Kenny

Post 16 Administrator Careers and Enrichment Lead