

## PARENT & CARER WEEKLY BULLETIN

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2023

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### HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

I hope you have enjoyed a good summer with your family.

Our Year 11 and 13 students achieved some excellent results in the summer. I want to congratulate them all on their successes and we wish all our Year 13s the best for a bright future ahead as they leave the school.

It has been excellent welcoming the children back this week – it is particularly good to see how our new Year 7 students are adapting so well to being Pudsey Grammar students. I led the assemblies to the entire school yesterday to welcome our students back. The key theme of the assemblies was the importance of attending school every day. The analogy I made was if students do attend every day, they are building their knowledge on solid foundations. I used a photo of the pyramids to illustrate this. If students are off sporadically, the foundations they are building on begin to resemble a Jenga tower – full of holes and unstable.

If our children are to achieve their full potential it is essential that they attend school every day (unless they are extremely unwell). The vast majority of our students should easily be able to achieve an attendance rate of 97% and they will get the full benefit of our school. In the process they will feel more positive about themselves and develop into confident young people. There is a direct link to those students who do not attend school and severe underperformance. It is an easy one to fix so I would be extremely grateful if you could continue to work with us to ensure your child comes to school every day.

On a separate matter, we are changing the way we would like parents and carers to communicate with Form Tutors and Year Leaders. I will send a separate letter to inform you of the changes which we will be trailing until the October break. The changes involve directing any concerns or issues to the Form Tutors in the first instance so they are fully informed about your child. Please read through the details in the letter.

We are all looking forward to work with you and your child in the coming academic year.

Best wishes,

**Mark McKelvie**  
Headteacher

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## **PARENT & CARER WEEKLY BULLETIN**

### **GENERAL NOTICES**

#### **School Stationery**

All stationery needed for your child's pencil case can be bought from the Library (first floor). A full list of items available to purchase can be found on the school website. Pencil case packs and scientific calculators can be bought online through Parentmail (£4.00 and £13.49 respectively). Smaller items of stationery must be paid for with cash. Students who qualify for Pupil Premium can get all stationery for free. Please note that planners, Knowledge Organisers and ties cannot be bought from the Library.

#### **School Library**

The Library is a quiet reading and working space for all students. Students are able to borrow up to three books at a time. The loan period is 2 weeks, but students can request to renew their books at any time. Students will earn positive points for borrowing and returning books. They will also get a House point each time they take out a book. The rota for access to the Library during social times is displayed on the Library doors. It can also be viewed on the school website. The Library is open after school until 15:45 (15:30 on Fridays). There will be various exciting clubs and workshops running in the Library throughout the year.

Mrs Martin  
Librarian

#### **PE Information**

Please see below a number of reminders regarding PE lessons at Pudsey Grammar school at the start of this term.

#### **PE kit**

All students should have the full Pudsey Grammar School navy PE kit. Students are not permitted to wear any other colour PE kit. If students are still waiting for new PE kit from Whittakers, please write a note in your child's school planner to clarify this.

If students in Year 7 - 9 are scheduled to play football or rugby they must have studded football boots. They should also have their outdoor PE kit (hoodie or rugby top) when the weather becomes cooler or wetter over the coming months.

The full list of PE kit can be found on the school website:-

<https://www.pudseygrammar.co.uk/parent-information/uniform-and-equipment/>

#### **Non Participant Notes**

If a student cannot take part in a PE lesson, they should have a written note in their planner from a parent/ carer unless it is a long standing issue that school is aware of. Students will still be expected to bring and wear their PE kit, even if they cannot take part, unless they cannot

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physically get changed. This is so they can still support the lesson in other ways and to prevent their school uniform from getting wet or dirty when they are outdoors with their PE group.

### **Extra-curricular**

PE extra-curricular will start the week commencing 11th September. The extra-curricular clubs are open to all students in KS3 and KS4 and they run from 3pm-4pm. When attending the clubs, students will have to register using the PE QR code which is located outside the school changing rooms each time they attend. Parents/carers also need to complete the consent form on Parentmail which will last for the whole academic year.

The clubs on offer are as follows:-

- Tuesday - Badminton and Basketball Club - Sports Hall
- Wednesday - Football club and Leeds United Girls Foundation Club
- Thursday - Netball Club.

Mr McCroakam  
Subject Leader of PE

### **Attendance Contact**

For any student absences, please can you contact the Attendance Team before 9am on each day of absence, either by emailing [attendance@pudseygrammar.co.uk](mailto:attendance@pudseygrammar.co.uk) or telephone 0113 386 9122. Absences not communicated to the school will be followed up by a phone call/home visit.

Can we also remind you to contact the Attendance Team regarding medical/dental appointments in advance, where possible, if these cannot be made outside of school hours.

Thank you  
Attendance Team

### **Parents Information Evening Year 7-13**

We are really excited at Pudsey Grammar to be able to invite all parents into the school building for our Parents' Information evenings over the next few weeks.

The aim of these evenings is to give parents/carers the opportunity to come into school, meet key staff, including Director of Studies, Year Leaders and Form tutors, to get an overview of the year ahead for their child.

All evenings run 5-6pm, with an additional 10 minute session which is optional for all parents.

Invitations for these evenings were sent before summer for Year 8-13 students and the invitation for Year 7 students was sent this week. If you have not already done so, please could you respond to this invitation with your availability for the evening through Parentmail.

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The dates for the evenings are below. We look forward to seeing you.

Year 12 - 19th September  
Year 11 - 20th September  
Year 10 - 21st September  
Year 13 - 25th September  
Year 9 - 26th September  
Year 7 - 27th September  
Year 8 - 28th September

Mr Bassett  
Assistant Headteacher

### **Matilda Musical – School Production**

The first rehearsal for Matilda is on Wednesday 13th September 3-4pm in the Drama Studio. If your child did not audition, but would like to be in the show then please ask them to come to this rehearsal (no audition required). Matilda is open to all students Year 7 - Year 13.

We are very excited to see our wonderful cast.

Miss Wray  
Subject Leader of Performing Arts

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## **YEAR 7**

We, as staff, have been very impressed with how students have been conducting themselves around school and in lessons. We are particularly pleased by how quickly Year 7 have picked up the school ethos and values. Students have made an excellent start to the new academic year. Form tutors have spoken very positively about the students and are looking forward to guiding them through this new chapter of their lives.

I would like to remind parents/carers of our key expectations of our Year 7 students:-

1. Arrive on time for school, lessons and registration
2. Wear your uniform correctly at all times
3. Be fully equipped for each lesson
4. Be helpful and do as asked by members of staff
5. Contribute to a positive learning environment
6. Be polite and respectful of others
7. Do your homework and hand it in on time
8. Walk around the school sensibly
9. Look after your school environment.

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We would like parents/carers to be aware of the following dates and times:-

### **Professional school photographs by Tempest**

15<sup>th</sup> September – Please ensure all students attend in correct school uniform.

### **Year 7 Parent Information Evening**

27th September 2023 5-6pm.

A letter about this event has been sent this week.

### **Year 7 Residential (PGL Newby Wiske Hall)**

Monday 1st July - Wednesday 3rd July.

The cost is £230PP. This includes accommodation, transport and all activities. Please see the link for more information.

<https://www.pgl.co.uk/en-gb/school-trips/secondary-schools/centres/newby-wiske-hall>

A letter will be sent out shortly with information on how to register your interest. Please be aware that there is a limited number of places available to the year group.

Please be aware that from 15th September I will be starting my maternity leave. After this date, Mr. Leigh will be covering my role as Year 7 Director of Studies. His email address is [j.leigh@pudseygrammar.co.uk](mailto:j.leigh@pudseygrammar.co.uk).

Mrs Kaye  
Year 7 Director of Studies

Miss Mathie  
Year 7 Leader

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## **YEAR 8**

It was great to welcome back our Year 8 students. They have settled back in really well, looking very smart in their uniforms and ready to learn!

I am really excited to start as the new Director of Studies for Year 8, working with this fantastic group of students. Miss Crosland is the new Year 8 Leader and I know she is really looking forward to working with the group this year students and parents/carers this year.

Mr Lucas  
Year 8 Director of Studies

Miss Crossland  
Year 8 Leader

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## **YEAR 9**

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Welcome back to all our Year 9 students.

This week we have had our first year group assembly and it was great to see this year group conduct themselves so well and throughout the assembly. I am looking forward to getting to know our Year 9 students this year and working alongside Miss Exley supporting them through what will hopefully be a very successful year.

### **Uniform policy regarding jewellery and piercings**

There should only be one stud worn in each ear and students will be asked to remove bracelets and necklaces while in school.

Mrs Mitchell  
Year 9 Director of Studies

Miss Exley  
Year 9 Leader

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## **YEAR 10**

We hope you had a fantastic break and are feeling refreshed and ready for the exciting year ahead.

### **GCSE Options**

Year 10 is a crucial year in our students' academic journey, filled with opportunities for growth, learning, and personal development. It's a time to explore new subjects and set some very strong foundations for Key Stage 4.

If any students would like to change options they must email me directly or speak to their Form tutor. I would like all students to give their subjects a two week trial, after which if students still wish to change, and it is possible to make the switch, we will.

### **Uniform**

Leggings and jeans are not permitted as part of our school uniform. Please ensure that your child comes to school in appropriate trousers as outlined in our uniform policy. School trousers, which meet our dress code requirements, can be viewed through the following link:

<https://www.pudseygrammar.co.uk/parent-information/uniform-and-equipment/>.

Please be reminded that we do not allow the wearing of false eyelashes or acrylic nails. These items are not in line with our school's guidelines and should be removed for the coming week. We appreciate your cooperation in maintaining a high standard of uniform.

Together, let's make this school year a memorable and successful one. We can't wait to see all that you will achieve!



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Miss Legg  
Year 10 Director of Studies

Miss Birdsall  
Year 10 Leader

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### **YEAR 11**

Both Mrs Swithenbank and I were delighted to welcome back Year 11 this week. They look incredibly smart in their uniforms and have made a positive start to the year. The year ahead will bring with it lots of new challenges, challenges we know the students are ready for.

Just a few quick reminders about some of our key routines:-

- The doors open at 8:20am, with Form time starting at 8:30. Students need to be in their Form rooms by 8:30am ready to start the day positively.
- Students should be wearing their blazer at all times around the school and will be asked to take coats off on arrival.
- Please be reminded that students should only have one stud earring in each ear.
- All homework is set on Classcharts. We will also log all positive and negatives onto Classcharts for parents/carers to see.

As parents/carers, please ensure you have the app and contact the main office if it is not working.

#### **Key Date**

We have a Parent Information Evening coming up on 20<sup>th</sup> September. A letter was sent out before the end of last term, and we would be grateful if you could confirm your attendance at the evening by completing the form on Parentmail. We look forward to seeing you at the event.

We look forward to a successful year with all Year 11 students.

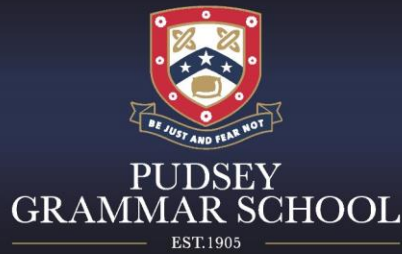
Mr Syed  
Year 11 Director of Studies

Mrs Swithenbank  
Year 11 Leader

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### **SIXTH FORM**

Welcome back! We hope that you all enjoyed a lovely and relaxing summer break. Congratulations to all our Year 12 students on their recent GCSE qualifications and a warm welcome back to our Year 13 students. It was fantastic to see our new Sixth Form community during assembly and enrolment on Wednesday.



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We have a very busy academic year ahead of us, and we look forward to seeing you all at our upcoming Parent Information Evenings

Tuesday 19th September – Year 12 Parent Information Evening 5.00-6.00pm

Monday 25th September – Year 13 Parent Information Evening 5.00-6.00pm

If you have any questions prior to the evenings, please do not hesitate to contact us.

### **Attendance**

Please address any Post 16 attendance queries to the Attendance Team via email to [attendance@pudseygrammar.co.uk](mailto:attendance@pudseygrammar.co.uk) or telephone 0113 386 9122 on each day of absence. Please can any medical/dental appointments also be communicated using this system.

Follow us on Twitter/Instagram to keep up to date with our Sixth Form events and opportunities. @PGSixthform @pudseygrammarsixthform

Mrs Smith  
Post 16 Director of Studies

Mrs Evans  
Careers and Pastoral Support

Ms Nota  
Attendance and Pastoral Support

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