

**PARENT & CARER
WEEKLY BULLETIN**
Friday 22nd September 2023

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

I wanted to thank everyone who attended our Parents Information evenings this week. They are an excellent opportunity to meet key staff and find out how you can support your child this academic year. The advice given at each evening is tailored to each specific year group. A reminder that next week we have Parents Information evenings for Year 13 on Monday, Year 9 on Tuesday, Year 7 on Wednesday and Year 8 on Thursday. All of the events start at 5pm.

Some of our Year 10 students travelled to Cambridge University this week for a residential trip to explore the types of careers which physics offers. It was an excellent trip to the university where Isaac Newton studied and allowed our students to see at first hand university life.

We have also successfully appointed all eight House Leaders to their roles. This is a significant step as it will allow us to further develop our House System. The system is entering its third year and there will be new and bigger competitions for all students to participate in.

Best wishes,

Mark McKelvie
Headteacher

GENERAL NOTICES

PGS Community Success/Opportunities – Year 7 – 11

As some of you may be aware, a range of Pudsey Grammar School students were involved in the very successful Summer Fuse Festival held on 22nd July 23 at Pudsey Park. Students helped to write and perform a song on stage in Pudsey Park during the festival itself, which was later played on Radio Leeds. The song has subsequently been released on Bandcamp; you can listen to it there.

All students involved in the musical performance, art installation work and design technology sculpture showcased in Pudsey Wellbeing Centre should be very proud of themselves. We are, as ever, amazed by your talents.

If your child is interested in creative pursuits, why not try signing them up to one of the many youth opportunities offered by the Music Box at www.themusicbox.org.uk.

Mrs Burgum
Assistant Headteacher

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Reading Cloud

Over the next two weeks, students across Years 7-9 will be introduced to Reading Cloud. Reading Cloud is the school's online Library database. All students from Year 7-13 have their own personal account which they can access both at school and at home.

There are many things students can use Reading Cloud for, including: writing book reviews for positive points, seeing current and past loans, searching for specific books and authors, browsing a wide variety of reading lists, reserving books, and 'liking' their favourite books and authors.

Students were given their login details during Form time this week. The login page for Reading Cloud can be accessed through RM Unify.

Ms Martin
Librarian

Year 7 – 11 Punctuality

A polite reminder to students and parents that, as we approach the autumn/winter period, please allow for extra time in getting to school due to inclement weather conditions. If your child arrives to school after the gates have been closed, they will be directed to Reception where they must sign in and therefore will receive an after school late detention. Students are expected to be in their Form room by 8.30am

Mrs Broadhead
Attendance Officer

Leeds UK Youth Parliament 2024-26 Elections – Year 7 – 13

Youth Parliament (UKYP) is a national programme that enables young people to use their energy and passion to change the world for the better. Run by young people for young people, UKYP provides opportunities for 11-18 year olds, to use their voice in creative ways to bring about social change. Being a Member of Youth Parliament is an exciting opportunity and during your term of office (2 years), you will have the chance to get involved in a huge range of activities, learn new skills, make new friends and represent young people from Leeds at a local, regional and national level!

Applications are now OPEN to become an MYP for Leeds for 2024-2026! If you would like to apply, visit <https://surveys.leeds.gov.uk/s/UKYPApplication/>.

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The deadline to apply is 5pm on Friday 6th October 2023. Once all applications are received, they will be shortlisted down to a final six. All applicants will be contacted w/c 16th October.

Good luck to any PGS students who apply - please feel free to speak with Mrs Burgum if you would like support with this process.

Mrs Burgum
Assistant Headteacher

Free School Meals

A message to ensure clarity around Free School Meals this academic year. We want to make the process clear, effective and reduce any queries you may have about funds issued through your child's account.

If your child is entitled to Free School Meals, £3.14 is loaded onto your child's dinner account daily. This amount cannot be seen on ParentMail, you will only be able to see the balance of any additional funds added to the account via card/PayPal. As this amount is loaded onto your child's account prior to lunch time, if any purchases are made at break time, then the charge will be taken from their FSM allowance. If this happens, then your child may not have enough FSM funds to purchase lunch, meaning additional funds would need to be added to their account to cover this.

For £3.14, your child will be able to purchase the below meal deal.

Hot meal (e.g. Meal of the Day)
Yoghurt, jelly pot or piece of fruit; or

Cold meal (e.g. sandwich)
Yoghurt, jelly pot or piece of fruit
Bottle of water

If you have any queries around any incorrect charges, please email:
info@pudseygrammar.co.uk with full details, this will then be passed to the Finance Team to look into.

Children eligible for free school meals can take part in Healthy Holidays activities during the school holidays. They all include a healthy nutritious meal and activities like arts and crafts, sports, dance and more. Please follow the link below to find out more:

<https://www.leeds.gov.uk/children-and-families/healthy-holidays>

If your child is entitled to free school meals, they are also entitled to a free Breeze pass to get discounts, priority bookings, VIP experiences and offers at activities and events at various venues across the city. Please follow the link below to register:

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https://my.leedstickethub.co.uk/account/login?ReturnUrl=/components/precart?exec%3Dtrue%26procedureId%3D56%26memb_type%3D3

Your child may also be entitled to free school travel. Please visit the website below to find out more:

<https://www.wymetro.com/schools/statutory-free-school-travel/free-school-travel-in-leeds/>

Find more help with food and bills by following the below link:

<https://www.leeds.gov.uk/benefits/help-with-food-and-bills>

You can also find further support through the Money Information Centre:

<https://www.leeds.gov.uk/leedsmic>

Finally, if you think your child could be eligible for free school meals, please visit the website below which provides information on how to apply.

www.leeds.gov.uk/schools-and-education/apply-for-free-school-meals

Mrs Burgum
Assistant Headteacher

YEAR 7

The Year 7 students continue to make a positive impression on their class teachers and on the wider school community, keep it up!

Please see below key message about Year 7:

Residential

The residential is a fantastic opportunity for students to develop key skills such as confidence and teamwork. A reminder that the residential is from 1st July to 3rd July and there are 50% of places remaining for the Year 7 residential this year. If you would like your child to attend, please pay the deposit of £80 to confirm their place by Friday 13th October.

Parent Information Evening

Please be reminded that the Parent Information evening for Year 7 is taking place on Wednesday 27th September at 5pm. This evening is a chance for parents to receive key messages about what the year ahead will look like for Year 7.

Uniform

Please continue to refer to the School Uniform Policy on the school website regarding what students should wear. Key parts of the Uniform Policy can be seen below:

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- Plain black or grey full length school trousers. Trousers must be tailored/ straight/ slim/ skinny cut;
- Optional navy tartan pleated skirt;
- Optional black or grey tailored skirt. The skirt should be no shorter than just above the knee;
- Plain black socks;
- Black single colour flat leather/leather type shoes; (canvas type shoes or trainers with a different colour logo are not allowed).

Tempest Photographs

Last week, Year 7 students had their professional photographs taken by Tempest. For those parents who are yet to order online, they have until Monday 2nd October 2023 to take advantage of free delivery back to school.

Mrs Kaye
Year 7 Director of Studies

Miss Mathie
Year 7 Leader

YEAR 8

Excellent first two weeks

We have been extremely impressed by Year 8. They look incredibly smart in their uniforms and have made a positive start to the year.

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

- Students should be wearing their blazer at all times around the school and will be asked to take coats off on arrival to school.
- 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.

Year 8 Parent Information Evening - 28th September 2022 - 5-6pm

I wanted to highlight this upcoming event again. It will be fantastic to welcome you back to the school building and meet you for the first time. We have had a large number of responses to the letter sent out before the summer. If you haven't replied but would like to come please respond via the form on Parentmail.

Mr Lucas
Year 8 Director of Studies

Miss Crossland
Year 8 Leader

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YEAR 9

Parent Information Evening

Year 9 Parent Information Evening will be held on Tuesday 26th September. Please confirm your attendance on the Parentmail form, if you haven't already done so. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible next week.

We have been extremely impressed by Year 9 after their first full 2 weeks in school. They look incredibly smart in their uniform and have made a positive start to the year. Just a few quick reminders about some of our key routines:

- Students should be wearing their blazer at all times around the school and will be asked to take coats off on arrival to school.
- All homework is set on Class Charts. We ask that you make sure you have access to Class Charts to support with behaviour logs and homework.

Mrs Mitchell
Year 9 Director of Studies

Miss Exley
Year 9 Leader

YEAR 10

Yellis Test

Well done to all Year 10 students who conducted themselves fantastically well during the Yellis test this week. Students arrived in silence and remained focused throughout. This has given us some very useful data given the fact our Year 10 students did not sit KS2 SATS.

Parents Information Evening

Thank you to all who were able to attend the Parent Information Evening on Thursday 21st September. A summary letter will go out to all parents/carers in Year 10 with the key messages that were delivered. A subject and progress specific parents evening will be happening on 14th March 2024.

GCSE Options

Students who requested a viable subject change will receive their new timetable in Form on Monday. They will need to request catch up work from their subject teacher so they are at the same point as their peers.

Extra-curricular

Our school has many extracurricular activities after school, from Crochet Club to Strategy Club. Please encourage your child to sign up to one of these. They can find out more about the different clubs by asking their Form tutor or looking at the TV screens around school.

Miss Legg
Year 10 Director of Studies

Miss Birdsall
Year 10 Leader

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YEAR 11

Parent Information Evening

Thank you to all those who attended the Information Evening, it was great to be able to speak to you in person. The presentations and other resources, including the trial exam timetable for November, will all be uploaded to the Year 11 section of the website. Please take a look through and let us know if you have any further questions. If you would like a hard copy of the information pack/revision timetable, please ask your child to collect one from Form tutors/Year office.

A reminder to contact Form tutors in the first instance for general enquires, Subject Leaders for subject specific enquires and Director of Studies for enquires with multiple subjects.

University of Bradford

Parents and Carers Information Session – 26th September 2023 – 17:30 – 20:30 Year 11 session (17:30 – 18:30)

- Going to university – context, outcomes, opportunity and lifestyle.
- Supporting your young person to start engaging with universities and do some research.
- Choosing Level 3 subjects - A brief introduction to student finance Q&A. These sessions are a really great opportunity to understand the next steps for their young person and will provide tips and advice on how to best support their young person's journey into Higher Education. Please use the link to reserve your place

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/2557157716019254879>

Year 11 Trial Exams

The November trial exams mark a key milestone moment as students progress through the year. Please make a note of the dates w/c 20.11.23 and w/c 27.11.23. Please ensure that any non-urgent appointments and/or activities are planned outside of this window.

The timetable for the trial exams is available as a hard copy below and will be made available online in due course. There are now 8 weeks before the trial exams commence. Students should be getting back into effective revision routines. I would encourage all families to discuss, create and implement an effective revision timetable for home use.

Revision Resources

Please look through the resources below to support revision at home:

Setting Goals: <https://bit.ly/PGSsettinggoals>

Flash Cards: <https://bit.ly/PGSflashcards>

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Mind Maps: <https://bit.ly/PGSmindmaps>

Revision Clocks: <https://bit.ly/PGSrevisionclock>

Mr Syed
Year 11 Director of Studies

Mrs Swithenbank
Year 11 Leader

SIXTH FORM

Important Dates

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

w/c 4th December - Year 12 & Year 13 Assessment #1 (Year 12 classroom based & Year 13 trial exams - hall).

Thank you to all of our parents and carers who attended the Year 12 Information Evening on Tuesday. It was really good to see so many families attend. The presentations have been sent out via Arbor to all families and if there are any follow up questions, please get in touch with your child's Form tutor, or a member of the Post 16 Team.

Year 13 Early Entry Meeting

All students applying for a university course with a 15th October deadline, need to attend a meeting on Monday 25th September at 3pm, Floor 0 of the library. During the session we will discuss final amendments to the Personal Statement, the application form and admission tests.

Year 13 Oxbridge Applicant Trip

Students who are applying to Oxford, Cambridge or Imperial College, are invited to attend Harrogate Grammar School on Wednesday 11th October to participate in a formal practice interview. Students will also have the opportunity to complete interview preparation on contemporary debates in their chosen field. If your child wishes to attend, they must see Mrs Evans by Wednesday 28th September.

University of Sheffield

Throughout the Autumn term, there are a number of free opportunities for students to experience what it is like to study different subjects at the University of Sheffield. All of the activities are completely free of charge and will provide students with a good insight into their chosen subject or area of interest at university. Please ensure that interested students fill out the booking forms individually using the following link:

<https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/undergraduate/visit/subject-tasters>

RAF Information Event

The Royal Air Force Careers Team are holding a virtual event next Tuesday 26th September at 7:30pm. The RAF World Event is where Students, Parents, Carers and alike can have first-hand

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experience of what the RAF currently does at home and overseas and the opportunity for employment. Tickets are available to book via the following link:
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/raf-world-tickets-631417565937?aff=A5FlyerEng>

Post 16 Detentions Reminder

All sixth form detentions will be scheduled on a Monday at 3pm. If students fail to attend we will contact home to make you aware. Students will be given the opportunity to sit the detention the following Monday. If students persistently do not attend their detention, we will ask parents/carers to come in for a meeting with a member of the Sixth Form Team.

UCAS Support Wednesday 27th September

Mrs Evans will be running a UCAS drop-in Session 3pm-4pm. Any student who requires support with any aspect of their application or Personal Statement may attend.

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
