

**PARENT & CARER
WEEKLY BULLETIN**

Friday 27th October 2023

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

This half term is the longest one in the school calendar and I know that all students (and staff!) are looking forward to the break. We have covered a lot of ground since the start of September as the students settle into their new year groups.

The school will re-open to all students at the usual time on Monday 6th November at the usual time.

Best wishes,

Mark McKelvie
Headteacher

GENERAL NOTICES

Year 7, 8 and 9 History Club - Russia: Regents, Revolutions and Repression

The History Club keeps on rolling! It is great to see so many students eager to learn more about Russia's past. Over the next two half-terms, we will be diving into Russia's historical past. We will study its Regents, Revolutions and its methods of Repression, all with the aim of gaining a greater understanding of the journey the Russian people have taken to reach their situation in the present day.

History Club will run fortnightly on Tuesdays from 3:10pm-4:00pm meeting at room 114 with Mr Alderson meeting next on Tuesday 7th November, to explore the Bolshevik Revolutions of 1917 and their subsequent impacts. All students with an interest in History are welcome and each session will be an individual in-depth study of a period, individual or event. So, even if you cannot make it to all of them, still come along to those you can! If you have any questions or queries, feel free to see Mr Alderson in the floor 1 Humanities and Maths office or alternatively email r.alderson@pudseygrammar.co.uk.

Mr Alderson
Teacher of History

KS3 Core PE after October half-term – Years 7, 8 and 9

Students will be required to bring football boots and trainers to their first PE lesson after October half term. Staff will inform students in that first lesson as to what sport they are taking

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part in which could require them to wear boots or trainers. Students should meet staff at the school Sports Hall for their first lesson after half term where this information will be given.

After October half term, we expect the weather to become colder and wetter. Please ensure your child has their outdoor PE kit for all lessons. This includes either their PE sports hoodie or rugby top and also a number of layers to keep them warm underneath. Hats and gloves are accepted for PE in the winter months.

We hope students have a restful half term.

Mr McCroakam
Subject Leader of PE

Leeds Book Awards – Marketplace Trip

Eleven of our students have been participating in the Leeds Book Awards. Today, they met the shortlisted authors, including this year's winner! The authors discussed their books, answered questions and gave students the opportunity to have their books signed. This is the third trip our students have attended at Leeds Central Library as part of the Leeds Book Awards. Each one was a wonderful opportunity, and our students have really enjoyed discussing the books each week, recording extracts of the books to be read at the presentation evening, making Tiktoks that have been watched by hundreds on the Leeds Libraries Tiktok page, and now finally meeting the authors. They have represented our school wonderfully.

Ms Martin
Librarian

House competitions

Thank you for your support and encouragement of students signing up to House events. The competitions so far this year have been very well attended and have been really enjoyable for all students and staff taking part.

An up to date calendar of events can be found in the 'enrichment' section of the school website.

Results so far this term: Gaming - round 1 (top 3)

Lower (7&8) - Deneb, Arcturus, Vega
Upper (9&10) - Libertas, Sirius, Arcturus
Senior (11-13) - Canopus, Sirius, Vega

Boys and girls football results will be out after half term.

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Following the break, students will be taking part in the following competitions:

w/c 6th November - Dodgeball
w/c 13th November - Basketball
w/c 20th November - Poetry/Chess
w/c 27th November - Netball/Gaming - round 2
w/c 4th December - Christmas quiz

Mr Robottom
House Systems Lead

YEAR 7

Year 7 students have made it to the end of their first half-term at PGS! Students have settled in very well to life at school and have consistently set high standards as this half-term has gone on. I am sure that these high standards will remain consistent for the rest of the school year. Have a fantastic break!

House competitions

The House competitions are well and truly underway and the attendance from Year 7 students so far has been outstanding at both the Mario Kart competition as well as the Football competition. After half-term, the next few competitions for Year 7 include Dodgeball, Poetry and Chess.

I hope to see just as many students coming along to these events to represent their House!

Year 7 changes to science classes

Following an assessment, we are moving some students into new classes when we return from half-term. This will allow students to receive the best support possible, in order to make progress in science. Students will receive their new timetable in Form on Monday 6th November. If you have any questions, please contact j.walker@pudseygrammarschool.co.uk.

Mr Leigh
Year 7 Director of Studies

Miss Mathie
Year 7 Leader

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YEAR 8

We want to say a massive well done to Year 8 for getting through a very long first half term. It has been difficult at times, but the majority of students have kept their standards high throughout the term. We want the students to use this break to rest and refresh for another long term in the build up to Christmas.

House competitions

The House competitions have now started and I want to encourage as many Year 8 students to step up and have a go at representing their Houses. It's been great visiting Forms and seeing students putting themselves forward and I would like as many students as possible to have a go.

Homework

The amount of missed homework has been increasing a lot across the year group. Anyone who is struggling to keep up with homework, can use the half term to get on top of it and start the next half term with a fresh approach and try cut down the amount. Homework is always set on ClassCharts and any passwords for websites can be reset by the subject teachers if needed.

Uniform

The support we are getting from parents on uniform is really appreciated and Year 8 uniform has improved as the term goes on. The Uniform policy is on the school website if you need to check and clarify any items. If you need any help with uniform, please contact school and we will help in any way we can.

Mr Lucas
Year 8 Director of Studies

Miss Crossland
Year 8 Leader

YEAR 9

Uniform and Equipment

Students have been reminded this week that they will start to receive sanctions for uniform infringements from Monday 6th November. This includes not having a blazer, not wearing their tie, wearing leggings instead of school trousers and multiple/facial piercings. Please help support students to get organised over the half term break and make a great start to half term 2.

End of Term

As we approach the end of the half term, I want to say well done to all the Year 9 students who have settled in well to their new classes and started the year in a really positive way. This

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half term Year 9 have been well organised and well-presented and I am sure that these high standards will be consistent over the course of the academic year.

Mrs Mitchell
Year 9 Director of Studies

Miss Exley
Year 9 Leader

YEAR 10

As we approach the well-deserved half-term break, it's crucial that Year 10 take this opportunity to recharge. Over the past weeks, they've put in tremendous effort and dedication to their studies. However, we are encouraging students to reflect on the work of the first half term. This will prepare them for the upcoming assessment week, starting on Monday 13th November. This is their chance to showcase their knowledge, skills, and understanding. Remember, assessments are not just about grades; they are about understanding your progress and identifying areas for improvement. Embrace the opportunity to learn from your mistakes and celebrate your successes. Each assessment is a stepping stone towards your academic and personal growth.

We would also like to remind parents about the Uniform policy and that students must remove any false nails/eyelashes on their return to school on Monday 6th November. Please ensure students are in school trousers with black socks and a blazer.

Miss Legg
Year 10 Director of Studies

Miss Birdsall
Year 10 Leader

YEAR 11

Trial Exams – four weeks to go

There are four weeks to go until the November trial exams for Year 11. They will take place in the Hall, under full exam conditions. This will help prepare students for their summer exams. At the end of last year, the students engaged in a very positive way and I know that this will continue and that students will build on their excellent progress so far.

Please continue to discuss revision and encourage your child to engage in the revision activities and homework that have been set to support with this. I have linked the exam timetable below to support at home:

[Skeleton Plan Y11 November 2023 Trial Exam Timetable - Full Timetable 2023.pdf](#)

If you have an enquiry with regard to a specific subject, please contact the Subject Leader. If

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you have an enquiry with regard to multiple subjects, please contact me on s.syed@pudseygrammar.co.uk

Revision routines to support at home

Here is a reminder of some revision routines and techniques students have been using in school that may also help at home:

- Revision Clock <https://bit.ly/PGSrevisionclock>
- Mind Map <https://bit.ly/PGSmindmaps>
- Flash Cards <https://bit.ly/PGSflashcards>
- Setting Goals <https://bit.ly/PGSsettinggoals>
- Printable Revision Timetable to use at home <https://bit.ly/PGSrevisiontimetableprint>

Copy and paste the links above to be taken to the resources.

Equipment for Trial Exams

Over half term, please can you review your child's equipment. It is important that all students are equipped correctly for lessons but this is even more important when preparing for the trial exams. Please check the following:

Pen and a spare (black or blue)
Red pen for 'reflection work'
Pencil
Rubber
15cm or 30cm ruler
Pencil sharpener
Protractor
A pair of compass
Casio Scientific calculator - **please double check this**
Glue stick
Dry-wipe pen
Knowledge Organiser
Planner

If there are any issues with equipment, please contact the Form tutor in the first instance.

NCS Programme

The Leeds United Foundation is thrilled to reintroduce the NEW NCS programme, a vital initiative tailored to empower young individuals in our local community to conquer the challenges they encounter. This exciting opportunity is open to students in School Years 11 and 12 or under 18 if they are in Year 13. Our program aims to:

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- Cultivate global and professional readiness.
- Foster greater self-confidence, resilience, and overall well-being.
- Instil a sense of empowerment to effect positive change in the world.
- Promote respect and tolerance for diversity.

We accomplish these objectives through a comprehensive three-part program:

1. Connect

This phase features an action-packed day at a Leeds activity centre, where participants engage in exhilarating challenges, including team-building activities, archery, axe throwing, bushcraft, and more.

2. Create

Participants have the opportunity to partake in two workshops designed to equip them with valuable skills to navigate the complexities of modern life. These workshops cover various areas such as Travel and Culture, Leadership and Enterprise, Sport and Well-being, Life skills and Money Management, and Media and Production.

3. Inspire

In this phase, participants engage in meaningful social action projects. They receive the necessary resources and guidance to plan and execute a social action project, effecting positive change in their community based on their passions and interests. Our NCS offerings provide benefits to give young people with a distinct advantage on their CVs.

Our NCS offerings provide benefits to give young people with a distinct advantage on their CVs. If you are interested in the opportunity above, please speak with Mr Syed and Mrs Swithenbank

Mr Syed
Year 11 Director of Studies

Mrs Swithenbank
Year 11 Leader

SIXTH FORM

GCSE English Resit
Tuesday 7th November AM
Thursday 9th November AM

GCSE Maths Resit
Wednesday 8th November AM
Friday 10th November AM
Monday 13th November AM



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Important Dates

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

25th January 2024 - Year 13 Parents Evening

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

18th April 2024 - Year 12 Parents Evening

Well done to all of our students for their hard work, resilience and outstanding attitudes during this half term. We have a very busy seven weeks ahead of us, and during assembly today students were reintroduced to the importance of preparation. With our first assessment week in December, students should be planning their time, using the revision strategies that complement their own learning, making timetables, and learning to balance their time! We will be looking at this during the first week after half term in Form time and students should bring examples of their planning, preparation and revision to discuss with their tutor.

Extended Project (EPQ)

Congratulations to all Year 12 students who have made a fabulous start to their Extended Projects. The breadth and depth of their questions show a wide variety of interests and we are looking forward to seeing how their projects develop over the year! For more information about the EPQ please follow this link: <https://bit.ly/EPQPGS>

Year 13 students who studied the EPQ last year have been invited into school for an intervention day on Thursday 2nd November. This is to help prepare their EPQ portfolios for marking in January. We will start at 9:00am and finish at 3:00pm, with a 15 minute break at 10:45am and 45 minute lunch at 12:15pm. Students are to enter via the main entrance and will be working under supervision in the Main Hall. They are welcome to bring a packed lunch or travel into Pudsey for their lunch. If you have any questions, please contact Mr Hodge directly at r.hodge@pudseygrammar.co.uk.

Opportunities

****Year 13 Students - Personal Statements**

Bradford University will be supporting students Tuesday 7th November with a 'drop in' for Personal Statements in Post 16 Study during 10.00-12.20pm.

****Wates - Virtual Insight Day**

On 9th November Wates will be offering their virtual insight day. This involves offering bite size sessions to those looking to learn more about the built environment and the career paths available. Sessions will focus on employability, industry insights, and potential graduate/higher level apprenticeship job opportunities. Speakers will include colleagues from Wates social value and early careers teams. To register interest please follow this link <https://insight.wates.co.uk/virtual-insight-day>

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****Early careers including apprenticeship opportunities.**

This is the link to the current vacancies:

https://earlycareersatwates.co.uk/search-jobs/?post_title=&categories=Apprentice&wates_pathway=&filterJobs=Search

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

Miss Nota
Attendance and Pastoral Support
