



PARENT & CARER WEEKLY BULLETIN

Friday 10th November 2023

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

I held a whole school assembly earlier this week to talk to the students about the tragic event which took place in Horsforth earlier this week in which a 15 year old boy was killed. I emphasised that whilst we should not speculate about the matter there is one aspect which we could be certain of. It is clear that a moment of extreme violence has resulted in an event which has led to a boy losing his life and will significantly affect many people, including the families and friends of both the victim and the person who did it, for the rest of their lives.

On a more positive note, we had two distinguished visitors into the school this week to talk to the students. On Thursday we had a visit by the Lord Mayor of Leeds, Councillor Al Garthwaite, who talked to our Year 8 students about her life and the causes which she has championed. The role is apolitical, but Councillor Garthwaite represents the Labour Party in Headingley. Earlier today we welcomed Stuart Andrew who is the Conservative MP for Pudsey. Mr Andrew addressed our Sixth Form students and took questions from them. Once it was finished Mr Andrew commented to me on how impressed he was with the student knowledge of and interest in current affairs.

Finally, Pudsey Parish Church and the Royal British Legion held a Remembrance service for local schools at Pudsey Cenotaph this morning which I attended with two of our Year 8 students representing the school. As you know, some of our former pupils were killed in both world wars so it was important to attend this event to remember them and the millions more who lost their lives. The Reverend Dimery who is the Vicar of Pudsey Parish Church asked that I mention the Field of Remembrance which is in the Churchyard and contains 2200 wooden poppy crosses. The main Pudsey Civic Act of Remembrance is on Sunday when the parade gets to Pudsey Parish Church at 9.45am for a 10am service followed by the Act of Remembrance and silence at the Cenotaph. I know that many of our students are in the cadets and will be involved on Sunday.

Best wishes,

Mark McKelvie
Headteacher

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GENERAL NOTICES

Reading Lists on Reading Cloud

Our teaching staff and Librarian have teamed up to create subject reading lists to support students in finding library books to further their subject-specific interests. Whether it's Year 7 geography or GCSE business, there are subject reading lists to suit a huge range of interests. All reading lists, fiction and non-fiction, can be accessed through logging on to Reading Cloud and pressing the 'Reading List' tab. This coincides perfectly with National Non-Fiction November, which celebrates all things factual. Students who borrow a non-fiction book from our Library during the month of November will receive an additional positive point!

Ms Martin
Librarian

Children in Need: Non-uniform Day 17th November

On Friday 17th November, Pudsey Grammar will be supporting the annual charity fundraising for Children in Need by holding our annual non-uniform day for staff and students. An official charity of the BBC, Children in Need raises money each year for disadvantaged children and young people across the UK, specifically benefitting 22 local West Leeds charities. Parent Mail will open for £1 donations from Monday 13th November to Friday 24th November. We thank you in advance for your generosity in supporting projects that focus on a vision for all children to fulfil their potential.

Mrs Burgum
Assistant Headteacher

Extra-Curricular Updates

As we are now underway into half term 2, I wanted to start by thanking all students who have shown dedication and commitment to attending clubs and enrichment so far this academic year. We know from research that attending extra-curricular activities really serve young people's mental and physical wellbeing, often leading to improved academic outcomes as a result. Attached to this bulletin is the updated HT2 extra-curricular timetable - these will be updated each half term in the event of any new clubs or changing aspects.

Please find these on our website here: <https://www.pudseygrammar.co.uk/parent-information/enrichment/>

Aside this you will also be able to see House competitions that your child is also able to participate in as per the calendar.

Additionally, communications will be coming soon for the 2023/2024 Duke of Edinburgh Award Programme open to all Year 9, 10 and 12 students.

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Mrs Burgum
Assistant Headteacher

Stage 84 – Production of Frozen

A number of students from Pudsey Grammar School have been hard at work rehearsing for their production of Frozen presented by Stage 84. It is being performed at Beckfoot School Theatre on Saturday 2nd December and Sunday 3rd December.

Please see the attached flyer for more information.

Mrs Stevenson
Teacher of Drama

YEAR 7

Welcome back, I hope all of Year 7 have had a wonderful and restful half-term break. Thank you to all parents/carers for their support during the first half-term, we really appreciate your efforts and urge you to continue this half-term.

As we now move into our second half-term, there will be a major focus on correct uniform and equipment. Please be reminded of key aspects of the Uniform policy:

- Navy blue blazer with the school logo
- Navy blue with white stripe and school crest clip on tie
- Formal white shirt with collar (to be tucked inside trousers/skirt)
- Plain black or grey full length school trousers.
- Optional navy tartan pleated skirt/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.

Key aspects of equipment:

- Planner
- Fully equipped pencil case
- Knowledge organiser
- Reading book

Attendance

Well done to the many Year 7 students who achieved 100% attendance last half-term! It is important that attendance remains high throughout the academic year to ensure all Year 7 students excel at PGS.

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Mr Leigh
Year 7 Director of Studies

Miss Mathie
Year 7 Leader

YEAR 8

It's been great to welcome Year 8 back after the half term and we have been impressed by their approach this week. The uniform for students has been at a high standard and going around classes there is a positive learning environment. It is another long term up until Christmas, and it would be great to see Year 8 keep this standard high.

Parents Evening

A reminder that Parents Evening for Year 8 will be on the 23rd of November, more information for bookings will be sent out soon by email.

Year 8 students receive a Drama lesson every two weeks and for this reason they will only be receiving an ATL grade for this data capture. We feel that the students haven't had enough Drama to demonstrate an accurate picture of where they are at. They will receive a current grade at their next data capture.

Mr Lucas
Year 8 Director of Studies

Miss Crosland
Year 8 Leader

YEAR 9

Welcome Back

Year 9 have had a great first week back. Uniform standards have been high and the students have made a really good start to their first week. All Year 9 students will have some slight changes to their timetable as part of the subject carousel, if students have not received a new timetable, then they need to check with their Form tutors.

Duke of Edinburgh

This week Year 9 have had an assembly about the Duke of Edinburgh Award. They will be given the opportunity to bring home some information and forms to fill in if they are interested in completing the award. This is a fantastic opportunity for students and a really great experience that will help enhance their confidence and CV as they look to future ventures.

Mrs Mitchell
Year 9 Director of Studies

Miss Exley
Year 9 Leader

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YEAR 10

Assessment Week

Welcome back to a new half term! We hope you had a restful break. Next week is Year 10's first assessment week, so please encourage your child to look at their revision material ahead of the assessment.

Uniform

We kindly ask that you check false nails and eyelashes have been removed and your child's uniform matches the school's Uniform policy. Thank you for your cooperation.

Miss Legg
Year 10 Director of Studies

Miss Birdsall
Year 10 Leader

YEAR 11

Year 11 Trial Exams – 1 week to go!

Only one week to go now 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. In assembly this week, we discussed routines and expectations of the exams and will continue to communicate this to students next week. 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 attached the exam timetable to support at home. If you have an enquiry with regard to a specific subject, please contact the Subject Leader. If 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

Equipment for Trial Exams

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:



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Casio Scientific calculator - **please double check this**
Clear pencil case only **not transparent coloured**
Pen and a spare (black)
Red pen for 'reflection work'
Pencil and spare
Rubber
15cm or 30cm ruler
Pencil sharpener
Protractor
A pair of compass
Glue stick
Dry-wipe pen
Knowledge Organiser
Planner

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

Uniform Reminder

Uniform expectations will remain unchanged during the trial exams. Here is a reminder of the uniform policy: <https://www.pudseygrammar.co.uk/parent-information/uniform-and-equipment/>

Mr Syed
Year 11 Director of Studies

Mrs Swithenbank
Year 11 Leader

SIXTH FORM

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

Congratulations to many of our Year 13 students that have started to receive university offers and are currently preparing for their interviews! We are really impressed with the focus and preparation taking place to complete applications and receive competitive offers from universities. Students will continue to be given support with the application process via their Form tutor and the Sixth Form Team. A reminder that the internal deadline we are working towards is 8th December. We are aware that some students are waiting until after the Trial Exam week before sending off their applications. Please be reassured that there will be

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support for students after the 8th December! If there are any questions regarding any aspect of this process, please contact Mrs Smith.

Opportunities

Young Innovators Council

The YIC, is the voice of young people at Northern Gas Networks. It gives the young people involved a unique opportunity to kickstart a career in the world of business, by working with a major energy industry company. If you are passionate about how we can make energy greener, about creating equal opportunities for talented young people, STEM subjects, and would be interested in working with us to make change happen, please apply using the link below.

Fill in this form: <https://forms.office.com/e/Wh0GKPaApk>

Application deadline: Tuesday 9th January 2024, 12pm.

Deloitte Insight Event Deloitte is one of the most prestigious professional services and accounting firms in the world, in fact they are the biggest out of all the Big 4. They offer audit, tax, legal and advisory services to enable brands to grow, succeed and maintain their global status. Forming number 1 of the Big 4, Deloitte has some huge profile clients, such as Microsoft, Morgan Stanley, Apple and Starbucks. Deloitte operates in over 150 countries, with over 300,000 employees, with revenues in excess of nearly \$60 Billion a year. On Wednesday 15th November from 5pm – 6:30pm they will be hosting their first event of the year with Deloitte; this virtual webinar will be held via Zoom. This will give you an insight into what Deloitte does and what a career at such a huge global firm can look like.

Click here to sign up now: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/InsightIntoDeloitte> Higher and Degree Level Apprenticeships!

Please use the link to view higher and degree level apprenticeships available nationwide. <https://amazingapprenticeships.com/app/uploads/2023/10/Higher-and-Degree-Vacancy-Listing-for-2023.pdf>

Mrs Smith
Post 16 Director of Studies

Mrs Evans
Careers and Pastoral Support

Miss Nota
Attendance and Pastoral Support