

PARENT & CARER WEEKLY BULLETIN

Thursday 30th November 2023

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

The cold weather has clearly arrived with the dusting of snow around the town this morning making it look very festive. I enjoy welcoming our students with colleagues at the school gates each morning but one point I have noticed this week is that some students do not have a winter jacket or coat with them to wear over their blazer. We want to make sure that students arrive warm and ready for the school day so if you can please remind your child to bring their coat (it seems obvious but teenagers do sometimes forget!) and if there's any hardship issues please contact us for support.

Mark McKelvie
Headteacher

GENERAL NOTICES

Industrial Cadets Work Experience – Year 11, 12 and 13

Work experience at Yorkshire Water is offered via our Industrial Cadets Work Experience programme. Industrial Cadets is an accredited work experience programme for young people, supported by the Engineering Development Trust (EDT).

During a week-long programme of activities, starting 8th July 2024, students will be based at the Learning Academy at Esholt Hall, Bradford. They will take part in a series of sessions learning about sustainability issues within the UK water industry. Students will be given a project to complete and present by the end of the week. This focuses on water conservation, which is a real challenge faced by the UK water industry.

At the end of the week, students will receive a nationally recognised Silver Level Industrial Cadets award. This is similar to receiving a Duke of Edinburgh Award, but with a focus on Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM). Students can therefore use this award when applying for jobs / further education.

The deadline for applications is Monday 26th February 2024 and you can find more details by following the link below:

<https://www.yorkshirewater.com/education/teachers/careers/>



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We hope this is of interest to many of our Year 11-13 students. An application form can be found on the link <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1Ou1Ma3SpudKrQo9T7OufO5sQP3yuW8Q>

Mrs Burgum
Assistant Headteacher

Children in Need - Thank you!

Following this year's Children in Need non-uniform day, staff and students at Pudsey Grammar raised an amazing £994. Thank you to everyone that donated, as ever, this money will be put to good use by CIN associated charities.

Mrs Burgum
Assistant Headteacher

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

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 5th December, to explore the life of Joseph Stalin. 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
Assistant Subject Leader of History and Social Sciences

Summer 2023 GCSE and GCE Certificate

GCSE and GCE Summer 2023 certificates are now available to be collected from the Main School Office. Students and parent/carers collecting will be asked to sign for the collection of certificates. Please note the office opening hours are 8.00am-4.00pm Mondays-Thursdays and 8.00am-3.30pm Fridays.

Exams Team

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Self Care

At PGS, we recognise that as well as looking after your physical health it is also important to take care of our mental health. It is normal that there are times in our lives when we feel down or anxious and it is important that when we are well, we develop strategies to help us cope on those occasions.

We have introduced Self Care slides into our student assemblies and we also wanted to share some self-care techniques with our parents and staff. We will be putting information into our Parent Bulletin at the beginning of each month which is from the organisation Action for Happiness, and is part of their GREAT DREAM campaign.

This month's information is around Giving and can be found via the link below:

<https://actionforhappiness.org/10-keys/giving>

Mrs Williams

Director of Safeguarding & Senior Mental Health Lead

Leeds Joint Agency Protocol for Domestic Violence and Abuse (DVA)

The DVA Notification Process has been designed to provide confidential notification to schools and higher education establishments on any incidents of domestic violence and abuse which occur within a child's household that might have an impact on a child whilst they are in school. Pudsey Grammar School is a partner in this process.

Please read the Domestic Protocol letter for further information which is on our website in the Student Wellbeing section: <https://www.pudseygrammar.co.uk/key-information/online-safety/student-wellbeing/>

Mrs Williams

Director of Safeguarding

Lost Property – Friday 8th December 2023 at 3.10pm

Lost property will be available for parents/carers to look through and reclaim any lost items. Please report to Reception and a member of our Office Team will be available to support you. Any unclaimed items will be taken to the charity shop.

Helen Frost

PA to the Headteacher & Communications/Office Manager

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YEAR 7

As we move towards colder weather, it is vitally important that Year 7 students are taking extra care on their way to and from school. Students in Year 7 should also make extra preparations for school, this might include wearing hats and gloves to school and wearing extra layers in PE to keep them warm.

Reading Books

Reading for pleasure is widely promoted at PGS, and we want students to maintain this during Form time. Please ensure that students have a reading book as part of their equipment every day. Students are also able to utilise the Library which has a fantastic array of books on offer.

House System

We welcomed Mr Robottom into assembly this week who discussed the benefits of the House competitions and some exciting competitions that we have coming up. Attendance in Year 7 to House competitions is fantastic and we want to ensure it remains at these high levels. The next few House competitions include: Christmas quiz, music competition and the famous Pudsey's Got Talent.

Mr Leigh
Year 7 Director of Studies

Miss Mathie
Year 7 Leader

YEAR 8

Uniform

Generally, uniform has improved as the year has gone on but we are greeting a number of students on the door with missing ties. It is part of the school uniform and borrowing one from the Office every day is not a long-term solution. It disrupts the start of the day as well as adding unnecessary negatives. If you need any support with this please get in touch.

Reading Books

Students need a reading book as part of their daily equipment. This book can come from home or be borrowed from the Library.

Banter vs Bullying

Our attitude towards each other is usually respectful, but we have had a few instances recently where words said to each other have crossed the line. It is important for students to understand the difference between hurtful comments and 'banter'.

Mr Lucas
Year 8 Director of Studies

Miss Crosland
Year 8 Leader

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YEAR 9

Equipment

Please can we remind students that a reading book is expected as part of their daily equipment. This should be checked in Form time weekly. There is a session in Form time allocated to reading as well as a requirement in English lessons. It is important that students are organised every day for these reading sessions.

Duke of Edinburgh

There is still time for students to submit an expression of interest for the Duke of Edinburgh award. A Parent Information Evening will be held on Monday 4th December and it would be great to see as many of you there who are interested in what the award entails.

Mrs Mitchell
Year 9 Director of Studies

Miss Exley
Year 9 Leader

YEAR 10

This week, our students attended a crucial assembly focusing on the significance of resilience and its development during their time at school. We believe that instilling this value in our students is essential for their personal growth and future success. Resilience, as emphasised in the assembly, plays a vital role in shaping a student's character and preparing them for life's challenges.

I would like to draw your attention to the exciting House events available to our students after school. There truly is something for everyone, ranging from comic art drawing sessions to a festive Christmas quiz this term. Participation in these events not only provides an opportunity for skill development, but also fosters a sense of camaraderie among students. Active participation can significantly contribute to the unity and spirit of the year group.

Miss Legg
Year 10 Director of Studies

Miss Birdsall
Year 10 Leader

YEAR 11

End of Year 11 Trial Exams

It has been fantastic to see all of our Year 11 students engaging so well in their trial exams over the past two weeks. The resilience, motivation, conduct and effort of the students has been exceptional. The exams will now be marked, and the first progress report of Year 11 will be sent out in the coming weeks. I will be in touch with further details closer to the time.

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Equipment, Uniform and Attendance

Please continue to encourage your child to be fully equipped and in full uniform. During the cold winter months, we would encourage students to wear their jackets/coats which can be stored away in their lockers during the day. Here is a link to the uniform and equipment policy: <https://www.pudseygrammar.co.uk/parent-information/uniform-and-equipment/>. Students can discuss equipment needs with their Form tutor if they require anything.

Finally, although the trial exams have now concluded, it will remain as important as ever that students are attending every lesson as much as possible.

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

25th January 2024 - Year 13 Parents Evening

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

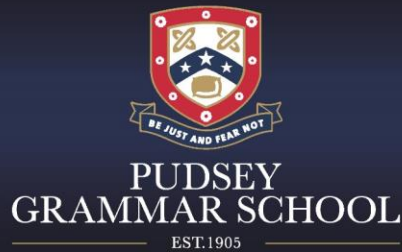
18th April 2024 - Year 12 Parents Evening

Year 13 Trial Assessment Week commences Monday 4th December. Students only need to attend their timetabled exams and coursework sessions. However, if students would like to work in school they are welcome to use the Post 16 study area (as long as they sign in and out at reception/with Mrs Scott).

Exams will take place in the Dance Studio. Students with access arrangements will be in a separate room. Seating plans will be displayed outside the Dance Studio.

Exam Expectations

- Students must arrive on time and properly equipped
- They should ensure their phone is turned off and out of sight in their bag - placed in the trolley
- All outdoor clothing (coats & hats) should be placed in the trolley - with their bag
- Smartwatches should be away in their bag
- All resources must be in their bag
- If a student has finished, they need to sit silently and wait to be told they can leave
- Students may not leave to go to the toilet unless they have a medical pass - therefore they should go prior to the exam
- Students must not communicate with other students
- Students must complete all work on the exam paper



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Support will continue to be offered to students who wish to apply to UCAS. Once students have had their application and personal statement checked, they need to make an appointment with Mrs Smith to complete the application.

Year 12 Assessment Week #1 will take place in classrooms during normal timetabled lessons. Students should know when their assessment will take place and expectations regarding how to prepare/content.

Summer 2023 GCSE certificates are now available to be collected from our Main Reception. Students can collect between 3.00-4.00pm and will need to sign/date on collection. These are very important documents and therefore students should keep them safe.

Volunteers for Matilda Production

We are looking for people to help with serving refreshments at the school production. The dates of the production are Tuesday 19th, Wednesday 20th and Thursday 21st. You can do 1, 2 or 3 nights volunteering. For more information please see Miss Wray in the Drama department.

Mrs Smith
Post 16 Director of Studies

Ms Nota
Attendance and Pastoral Support