

**PARENT & CARER
WEEKLY BULLETIN**
Friday 9th February 2024

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

It is good to see the daylight hours increasing but the weather is clearly turning colder now. We always aim to keep the school open if we have significant snowfall but the main issue is that many of our staff travel from outside the area and the usual UK roads chaos which ensues after a heavy snowfall can stop them getting in on time or at all. This creates a safeguarding issue as the school now has over 1300 students and it is essential that we can supervise them all safely with an appropriate number of staff. Unfortunately, heavy snowfall can, on rare occasions, mean that we have to close the school or open slightly later to allow staff time to travel here.

If the school does close due to snow we send all parents a text message as soon as the decision is made (usually around 6.30am – 7am) so that families can make alternative arrangements if necessary for younger students. The information is also put onto our website and sent to Leeds City Council who also publicise any school closures.

Hopefully we will escape the end of the colder weather without a heavy snowfall but I thought it worth mentioning so that you know the process.

This half term has been extremely short and we break-up for the February half term holiday today. We hope you enjoy spending some time with your children and we look forward to welcoming them all back on Monday 19th February at the usual time.

Mark McKelvie
Headteacher

GENERAL NOTICES

World Book Day - The PGS Book Awards

Last year, several of our wonderful PGS students took part in the long-awaited Leeds Book Awards. We've taken inspiration from this experience, and we're doing something a bit different in the lead up to World Book Day... The PGS Book Awards! Our book club has narrowed down some excellent books deserving of the award. Students in KS3 will watch a short trailer and presentation on the first Monday back after the break where the longlist will be revealed. Students in all years will be able to vote from the 19th of February for which book they want to go through to the next round. Each vote is worth one house point, and the form group that submits the most votes will win a prize on World Book Day. The voting form can

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be accessed on RM Unify from the 19th of February. Copies of all the longlisted books will be available in the school Library.

Ms Martin
Librarian

Year 7, 8 and 9 History Club: Mind-Blowing Myths

Have you ever wondered about the fascinating stories that echo through time? How Gods walked amongst us? How Heroes slayed monsters that struck fear in to the hearts of men? How civilisations were destroyed in the blink of an eye? If so... Embark on a captivating journey through time with our History Club- where myths come alive! Join fellow enthusiasts in unravelling the mysteries of ancient civilisations as we explore the myths and legends which have shaped cultures over eons. Immerse yourself in the tales of Gods, Heroes and Fantastical Creatures and unearth the hidden gems of History by indulging in thought provoking discussions around the significance of this mythology. Expand your knowledge, make new connections, and let the past ignite your imagination in the History Club, where myths and reality collide.

Are you ready to question reality? If so, then be at room 114 from 3pm-4pm fortnightly on Tuesdays, with our next session on 20th February delving into the story of the Egyptian God of Death, Anubis. Please see Mr Alderson or email r.alderson@pudseygrammar.co.uk if you have any further queries.

Mr Alderson
Assistant Subject Leader of History and Social Sciences

Year 7 – 11 Knowledge organiser quiz homework

Your child's English, Maths and Science teachers have set them a Knowledge Organiser quiz homework. This work is to help your child remember key vocabulary to help them in the subject. Please encourage your child to complete this work.

Miss Wray
Subject Leader of Performing Arts

Parent Governor Ballot

We wrote to you last term to invite nominations for the vacancy for a Parent Governor. As we have more candidates than vacancies, we must now hold a ballot. You will see below a link to an online ballot form with the names of the candidates. You may vote for up to 1 candidate. You should:

- Read the candidate statements attached to the online form
- Indicate your vote on the online form and click submit to cast your vote.
- Your vote will be anonymous.

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Please make your vote by no later than Friday 23rd February 2024 at 12.00 noon.

If you have any queries about this process, please contact Helen Frost by email at h.frost@pudseygrammar.co.uk.

Link to the online ballot form - <https://forms.office.com/e/z8eCqrnub7>

Thank you for taking the time to vote for the next Parent Governor of Pudsey Grammar School.

Ms Frost
PA to the Headteacher
& Communications/Office Manager

Project Shield - Parental Sessions 9th February – 20th February

The Knife Angel, an 8m metal sculpture made from 100,000 knives is at Leeds Royal Armouries through February. Its presence highlights ongoing work to keep all young people safe from weapons and to nurture their awareness. Last month students in KS3 worked with St Giles Trust in assembly to improve their knowledge of knife crime and the dangers of carrying any weapon.

Leeds City Council and West Yorkshire Police are now offering Parent sessions to support you with how to approach important conversations at home about keeping your children safe from knife crime.

Please see the attached leaflet for information on sessions, which are free drop ins. In West Leeds, they are being held at New Wortley Community Centre or Broadlea Community Centre.

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1UVSjzdcPyxIZg8w580kadia7ynhRD5S4>

Mrs Burgum
Assistant Headteacher

School Uniform Event on Saturday 17th February 2-5pm at Pudsey Community Project, Fartown, Pudsey, LS28 8LP.

Come and choose next sizes of school uniform for your children at our pop-up event, working in collaboration with Zero Waste Leeds School Uniform Exchange. All items are free - we're grateful for any donations of cash/card/non-perishable food for Pudsey Foodbank if you're able to give a little. Choose to Reuse - Save Money - Help the Planet - See you there!

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YEAR 7

After a short, but busy half term I want to take the opportunity to remind students how important it is to have a restful break. Taking time to rest, renew, and refresh yourself isn't wasted time. Here are five things for Year 7 students to consider:

- Eat well and regularly – Look for foods that have a low sugar index, as they are absorbed more slowly and won't lead to a sudden drop in energy.
- Exercise: this releases positive endorphins that make you feel better about yourself.
- Stay Hydrated: this improves concentration and mood.
- Sleep: aim for 8-9 hours a night and reduce screen time before going to bed.
- Connect with a hobby: this could be reading / nature / cooking / drawing etc.

We really hope all the students have a restful half-term break and return after the half term, refreshed and ready to learn.

Mr Leigh
Year 7 Director of Studies

Miss Mathie
Year 7 Leader

YEAR 8

It has been a very short but very busy half term. We hope Year 8 use the week off to rest and refresh ready to build on the good work done so far this year. It's a great opportunity to get ahead with any homework set and be ready for a fresh half term. We would like to remind students about the equipment and uniform that is required for the first Monday back.

Equipment

Students will need the following:

Student planner (provided by the school). Students should bring their planner to school with them every day

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

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Glue stick

Dry-wipe pen

A suitable bag to carry equipment, books and PE kit. The bag should be big enough to hold an A4 file (e.g. a rucksack).

French dictionary

Spanish dictionary (from 19th February)

Reading book.

Uniform

Students are required to have their blazers on at all times while travelling through the school building with school trousers or appropriate length tailored skirts.

Please be aware that Year 8 students will switch to Spanish after February half term, starting the 19th February. Students will need their Spanish dictionaries each MFL lesson from this date onwards.

Mr Lucas

Year 8 Director of Studies

Miss Crosland

Year 8 Leader

YEAR 9

Although this has been a short half term, Year 9 have still done remarkably well upholding high standards over the last 6 weeks. There has been a slight increase in uniform issues creeping in, with regards to leggings, lack of blazers and incorrect footwear. If we could please ask for your support in ensuring that students are well equipped and uniform is correct on their return back after half term it would be very much appreciated.

Next half term is important for Year 9 as they will start the guided choices process. Leading up to Easter, Year 9 will have their second progress update, Parents Evening and a Guided Choices Evening alongside Form time support from tutors. This is a really exciting and important time for Year 9 students to start thinking about their options moving through school.

Thank you for your continued support and we hope all students have a relaxing half term.

Mrs Mitchell

Year 9 Director of Studies

Miss Exley

Year 9 Leader

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YEAR 10

We are pleased to report that Year 10 have had a good half term, settling seamlessly into their GCSE topics. As we approach the second half of the term, there will be some changes to the Behaviour policy aimed at further supporting our students in attending lessons. Your support at home is crucial in reinforcing these policies, ensuring that all students can maximise their progress in every lesson. Thank you for your support in fostering a positive learning environment.

Miss Legg
Year 10 Director of Studies

Miss Birdsall
Year 10 Leader

YEAR 11

February Year 11 Trial Exams

Please see the attached timetable for the February trial exams. This is a key milestone that will require a huge push with independent revision over half term. Please encourage students to commit time at home in preparation of these trials. You can use the revision techniques below to support good revision routines: Please continue to encourage students to revise at home, but also to take part in the after school drop-in sessions and to make good use of the Supervised Study area after school Tuesday – Thursday.

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>
Knowledge Organisers (every student has a copy)

Equipment for Trial Exams

A reminder that students need to be well equipped for their trial exams, these will take place immediately after the half term break. Key things to check:

- Scientific Calculator
- Clear and uncoloured pencil case
- Set of black pens (blue pens are not used in exams)

For further information, or if there are any issues, please contact the Form Tutor.

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GCSE Tutorials – IMPORTANT

From the start of next half term, students are invited to attend after school tutorial sessions with their class teachers. This is a fantastic opportunity for our students to get a boost in their subject areas in the run up for the final GCSE exams and coursework submissions. Each day will have a different session running and the timetable for this has been attached to this bulletin. Please review and discuss this at home with a plan to attend regularly. We look forward to seeing our students after school at these sessions and supporting them through their final weeks of GCSE study. If you have any questions, please speak directly to the Subject Leader or contact me by email s.syed@pudseygrammar.co.uk.

English Literature GCSE

Year 11 students are studying the 15 'Power and Conflict' poems from the AQA poetry anthology in preparation for the GCSE Literature exam. In English lessons we will be focusing revision on five key poems and we will be asking students to learn quotations from these poems as part of their revision.

Year 11 History Intervention- Commencing 19th February

The History Department, from the week commencing the 19th February, will be running intervention sessions after school on Monday nights starting at 3:10pm. There will be two sessions running simultaneously. One session will focus on Exam Technique and the other on Subject Knowledge. There is no requirement for students to attend these sessions, however, attendance is encouraged and these sessions will assist their progress in History in the run up to the GCSE Exams. A timetable of these sessions, who will run them, their location and their focus can be found linked below. Printed versions of this timetable will also be displayed around the History Department and Year 11 Year Office for students to refer to.

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1P0rS0xYbDsUyvyMOV6lq_u367vKzFbJRDvJaxCZ0Is/e/dit

If you have any further questions or queries in regards to these interventions, please do feel free to contact myself at r.alderon@pudseygrammar.co.uk

Mr Syed
Year 11 Director of Studies

Mrs Swithenbank
Year 11 Leader

SIXTH FORM

Important Dates

W/c 11th March 2024 – Year 12 & Year 13 Assessment Week #2 (classroom based)
18th April 2024 – Year 12 Parents Evening



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Although it has been a short half term...it has been busy! Thank you and well done to all students for their hard work over the past five weeks, especially all the students that sat external exams and completed controlled assessments in January.

Looking ahead, the next half term remains packed full of opportunities to support learning and curriculum enrichment. Year 12 and Year 13 students will be involved in an interview skills workshop, we have guest speakers who will present on student finance and mental health, our annual Careers Fair that will feature representatives from local employers, apprenticeship providers, colleges and universities...and we will be launching our enrichment programme. This alongside essential exam preparation for the summer!

Year 13 Prom 2024

The Year 13 Prom will take place on Friday 28th June at Headingley Cricket Ground (time to be confirmed). There will be a celebration assembly prior to the prom which parents and carers will be invited to. During this evening, we look forward to celebrating the achievements of all our Year 13 students and ensuring that they have a fantastic evening. Further information will be sent nearer the time.

We hope that all our students enjoy the half term break and return ready for the next six weeks! As always, if you have any questions or concerns regarding any aspect of Sixth Form, please get in touch with a member of the Sixth Form team.

Mrs Smith
Post 16 Director of Studies

Ms Nota
Attendance and Pastoral Support

Miss Robinson
Post 16 Administrator

Miss Kenny
Careers and Enrichment Lead
