

**PARENT & CARER
WEEKLY BULLETIN**
Friday 12th September 2025

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

I wanted to thank you for your support regarding attendance so far this term and I'd like to take the opportunity to highlight facts about school attendance which are stark. The Department for Education published a report last year into attendance which showed the impact attendance has on a young person's future earnings. It stated that a student whose attendance fell below 90%, their salary by the age of 28 year old would be £10,000 less than a student who had nearly full attendance.

It is worth considering this in more detail. Assuming young people today retire when they are 60 years old, a £10,000 a year difference until they retire equates to £320,000 less lifetime earnings from their work. This will significantly affect their future lifestyle and also mean if they have a work pension it will also be smaller when they retire.

Whilst money is not everything in life, looking at it in isolation as the Department for Education did recently, presents some stark statistics.

We have a fantastic school which is heavily oversubscribed. The chances of securing a place at our school are difficult. However, if students are to fulfil their true potential it is absolutely essential that they attend every day. Please continue to support your child by following the DfE's recommendations that you make school attendance a priority. Only keep your child off school when they are genuinely too ill to attend. Book medical appointments and holidays outside of school time whenever possible.

If you are having difficulties in ensuring your child attends school every day, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us as we can advise and support you.

Mark McKelvie
Headteacher

Year 7

We are now through our first two weeks at PGS and we think the year group are settling in well. They are well prepared, their uniform is at a high standard, and attitudes are brilliant. Year 7 will be getting homework now and it is set on Arbor. Students have been shown in lessons how to log in. There is also guidance on the school website on how to use Arbor and log on if you are unsure. The homework will have instructions on how to complete it.

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Information Evening

We have our Parents information Evening on the 25th September. You will have received information about this through email with a link confirming attendance. Thank you to all who have responded so far. For those who haven't please could you respond to help us with the organisation of the night. It is a great opportunity to see the school again and to meet Form tutors for the first time.

PGL

At the end of last term we sent out an expression of interest about our PGL trip which will happen next July. We will shortly be sending out the letter with all the detailed information including the deposit price and instalment plan. Please note there will be a quick turnaround to get the first deposit in due to the deadlines given by PGL.

Mr Lucas
Year 7 Director of Studies

Miss Birdsall
Year 7 Leader

YEAR 8

Parent Information Evening

The Year 8 Parent Information Evening is on Wednesday 24th September. This is an important evening that gives parents and students an overview of the year ahead. There will be a main presentation and chance to meet Form tutors.

Students are also encouraged to attend and can wear non uniform.

Reading Books

Please can we ask that you support your child and remind them to bring a reading book to school every day. This is part of their daily equipment, and every Form session has time dedicated to silent reading.

Mrs Mitchell
Year 8 Director of Studies

Mrs Swithenbank
Year 8 Leader

YEAR 9

This week, Mrs Williams and I visited Year 9 Forms to praise students for how well they have started the new school year. Attendance has been strong, and students are coming to lessons well equipped and ready to learn.

We also hope Year 9 are enjoying their new subjects such as Business Studies and Media. This

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is a great opportunity for them to experience a taste of optional subjects before they begin making their GCSE option choices in Year 10.

I would like to invite you to our Parental Information Evening on Monday 23rd September from 5:00pm–6:00pm.

- Students are encouraged to attend alongside their parent(s)/carer(s).
- School uniform is not required.
- All attendees will have their name entered into a raffle to win a £50 prize.
- Main talk in the hall followed by a chance to meet the child's Form tutor.

Mrs Kaye
Year 9 Director of Studies

Miss Mathie
Year 9 Leader

YEAR 10

Parenting information evening

Our Year 10 Parent Information Evening is on Thursday 18th September from 5:00pm-6:00pm. This is a fantastic opportunity to find out more about your child's GCSE journey and what the next two years will look like for them. It is also a chance for you to meet their Form tutor who is your first point of contact.

GCSE options

Many thanks to the students who have sent me an email about swapping their option subjects. If we have been able to accommodate the switch they will notice a change to their timetable for next week.

The deadline for changing option subjects is: Friday the 19th September.

Miss Legg
Year 10 Director of Studies

Mrs Green
Year 10 Leader

YEAR 11

Parents Information Evening

Date: 17th September 2025

Time: 4:45pm – 6:00pm

Venue: Main hall

Please be advised that we will hold our year 11 Parents Information Evening on Wednesday 17th September at 5:00pm with doors opening at 4:45pm with some light refreshments. This

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is an event designed to provide families with information that is specific to Year 11 and we will be providing resources to support students and families over the course of this year. There will also be an opportunity to meet with Form tutors too.

Please do let Form tutors know if there is any reason you are unable to attend to support with running the logistics of the event. A reminder that students are encouraged to attend and that there is no need for them to wear the school uniform on the evening.

Year 11 Blackpool Trip

Date: 2nd October 2025

Please look out for the letter that has been sent regarding the Year 11 Blackpool trip as it outlines the detail of the trip and the payment method. There will need to be a quick turnaround as the trip is only 3 weeks away. If you have any questions or issues, please contact the Form tutor.

Mr Syed
Year 11 Director of Studies

Miss Exley
Year 11 Leader

SIXTH FORM

Important Dates

Year 12

Tuesday 16th September - Year 12 Parent Information Evening @ 5:00pm

Monday 6th October - Training Day #2

w/c Monday 17th November – Year 12 Assessment Week 1 (in class)

Friday 28th November - Training Day #3

Year 13

Monday 22nd September – Year 13 Parent Information Evening @ 5:00pm

Monday 6th October - Training Day #2

w/c Tuesday 7th October – Year 13 Assessment Week (in class)

Monday 3rd November – Year 13 Tutorials Commence

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Friday 28th November - Training Day #3

w/c Monday 1st December – Year 13 Trial Exam Week 1 (sports hall)

w/c Monday 8th December - New York Trip

We look forward to welcoming the parents and carers of our Year 12 students on Tuesday 16th September and Year 13 on Monday 22nd September to the Parent Information Evening. Please confirm your attendance by booking tickets using the link below. Up to two family members can attend the event, and students should also attend where possible.

Year 12 –

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/pudsey-grammar-school/year-12-parent-information-evening/e-kjemrp>

Year 13 –

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/pudsey-grammar-school/year-13-parent-information-evening/e-lemaxd>

Google Classroom & Student Communication

This week, all students have been sent a link to join both the Careers Classroom and their respective Year Group Classroom (Year 12 or Year 13) on Google Classroom. These classrooms are a key point of contact between staff and students, where important messages and announcements are shared every Monday, as well as additional updates throughout the week. We kindly ask that you ensure your child has signed up to:

Their Year Group Classroom (Year 12 or Year 13)
The Careers Classroom

Joining these classrooms is essential to ensure your child does not miss out on key information, opportunities, and reminders.

Reading Buddies

We are excited to offer Sixth Form students the opportunity to become reading buddies, supporting the reading development of our Year 7 and 8 learners. This scheme, led by Mrs Gough, involves listening to a Year 7 or 8 student read during Form time (8:30am–8:50am) twice a week. The specific days may vary each week depending on timetables, but it is important that Mrs Gough is informed of when each buddy is reading with their partner to allow for progress monitoring.

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Reading buddies are asked to commit to an initial 10-week period, running up until Christmas, to ensure consistency for the students they are supporting. Full training will be provided before the scheme begins. If you are interested in taking part, students should complete the Google form in the careers classroom by Thursday 18th September.

Into Teaching Scheme

We are excited to share an opportunity for Sixth Form students across Leeds to take part in the Into Teaching Scheme delivered through the Leeds Teaching School Hub. This government-led scheme is designed to increase the number of students and graduates who go on to train as teachers. The programme runs alongside your Year 12/13 studies and does not involve additional written work. Instead, it offers a unique chance to explore teaching as a career through a series of experiences.

Led by Mrs Burgum and other staff members, this programme focuses on teaching practice, pedagogy, and core teaching skills. There will be opportunities to observe subject lessons of your choice by current PGS teachers in a subject of your choice. There will also be opportunities to observe and explore good teaching practice in a primary school setting.

Sixth Form Enrichment - Library Helper

We would like to recruit a Sixth Form student to work in the library during lunchtime (period 5) Monday-Thursday or 8:00am-9:00am dependent on timetables. The post is being paid at £12.69 per hour initially until Christmas. Duties would include:

- *Shelving books in the correct order and place and tidying library areas
 - *Assisting students with finding resources
 - *Supporting library events and activities
 - *Basic admin tasks (e.g., cataloguing, stock checks)
 - *Maintain the tidiness of the shelves as well as their cleanliness.
 - *Create displays as well as promoting different types of genres etc
- Requirements:
- *Responsible and reliable
 - *Good organisational skills
 - *Willingness to follow school policies and procedures

An application pack will be available Friday 12th September (after the house assembly) with a deadline for applications for the following Friday 19th September. Interviews will be held on Tuesday 23rd September. Any questions, please see Mrs Gough in the Floor 2 Office.

Mrs Smith
Assistant Director of Sixth Form

Miss Robinson
Careers and Enrichment Lead

Miss Hart
Attendance and Pastoral Support

Mrs Scott
Supervised Study Co-Ordinator