



**PARENT & CARER  
WEEKLY BULLETIN**  
**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2025**

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## **HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE**

We were delighted to be given the keys to our new Inclusion base, which has been designed and built by Portakabin. The quality of the buildings that Portakabin provides for schools and hospitals across the UK is astonishing. From start to finish the company has been nothing but supportive, professional and has moved extremely fast to secure this building for us. We're looking forward to the next phase of development of this project, which is designing individual programs for students with social, emotional and mental health needs. We are planning to have the new Inclusion base fully operational by Christmas.

The photo below shows the Portakabin team and some of my colleagues who have all made this exciting new development possible.



**Mark McKelvie**  
**Headteacher**

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## **PARENT & CARER WEEKLY BULLETIN**

### **GENERAL NOTICES**

#### **Training Day 2 – Monday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2025**

Please note that the school will be closed to students on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2025 to allow for staff training. The school will re-open to students on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2025 at the normal time.

Ms Frost – PA to the Headteacher/Communications Manager

#### **Access to Staff Car Park**

Please note that on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> October the staff car park will be closed from 8.20am to allow safe access for coaches taking Year 11 students to Blackpool. This may result in Mount Pleasant Road being busier than usual. Thank you for your support.

Mrs Allman – Finance/Premises Manager

#### **Minor Illnesses**

As we move into the season where coughs, colds, and other minor illnesses are common, we would like to remind parents and carers of the importance of regular school attendance. Children are expected to attend school even if they have mild symptoms such as a cough, cold, runny or blocked nose, sore throat, sneezing, or a mild raised temperature. If they are genuinely too unwell to attend school, we will contact home.

If you are unsure, your local pharmacy can help with symptoms including:

- a cough
- colds: runny or blocked nose
- sore throat
- sneezing
- mild raised temperature / fever
- aches and pains
- congestion

Under the Pharmacy First scheme, pharmacists can also treat or prescribe for conditions such as:

- earache (1-17 years)
- sore throat (5 years and over)
- sinusitis (12 years and over)
- impetigo, infected insect bites, and shingles

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Absences should only be reported if your child is not well enough to attend school. You can notify us of an absence in one of the following ways:

Via the Arbor app

By calling the Attendance Team on 0113 386 9122

Thank you for your continued support in ensuring your child's education is not disrupted.

Mrs Bennett – Attendance Team

### Homework in History: KS3 and KS4

As part of the History Department's drive towards sustainability and to improve student access, we have **digitised our Homework Booklet**.

Please see the information below on how to access and complete homework.

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#### Accessing Homework Booklets

- All Homework Booklets are set as an **Arbor Assignment** in the relevant class.
- They are also available on the **Student Intranet** under the *Revision Resources* tile for each year group.
- Students must be logged into their **Pudsey Grammar Google Account** to view the documents.

For ease of access, direct links are provided below:

#### Homework Booklets

- [Year 7](#)
- [Year 8](#)
- [Year 9](#)
- [Year 10/11](#)

#### R4R Answer Booklets

- [Year 7](#)
- [Year 8](#)
- [Year 9](#)
- [Year 10/11](#)

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#### Completing Homework

Students are expected to show their homework in class by the deadline stated on Arbor. Homework can be completed in any of the following ways:

- Write answers from the **digitised Homework Booklet** into their History exercise book.
- Print the **Homework Booklet** and complete on paper.
- Make a personal **editable copy** of the Homework Booklet and send/show to Staff this completed copy:

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- Open the booklet via the link.
- Click **File → Make a Copy → Entire Presentation**.
- Further guidance: [How to Copy a Slide in Google Slides](#).

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I hope this provides clarity on how to access and complete History homework. Thank you for your support and patience during this transition.

If you have any issues, please contact me directly at [r.alderson@pudseygrammar.co.uk](mailto:r.alderson@pudseygrammar.co.uk).

Mr Alderson – Subject Leader of History

### **Music at Pudsey Grammar School**

We have had an excellent start in music so far this year. We already have a number of students making use of the department and attending both instrumental lessons and extra-curricular activities. I wanted to make you aware of some of the opportunities we have in relation to music at Pudsey Grammar School as we would love as many students as possible to be making music with us.

#### **Instrumental lessons**

All students were told in their first music lesson about the opportunity to study individual instruments with us in addition to their curriculum learning.

The instruments we currently offer include vocals, piano, drums and guitar. If there is another instrument your child is interested in learning, please do tell them to come and see me about this and if there is sufficient demand, we can look at putting tuition in place.

There is a charge for these lessons, but we can support with providing instruments for the students to learn on.

#### **Extra-curricular opportunities**

At Pudsey Grammar School we want students to be involved in making music beyond the classroom and we therefore offer different extracurricular opportunities for students across the whole school:

#### **School band**

We are relaunching our school band this year and are keen to have as many students on board with this as possible. The school band is open to anyone who plays any musical instrument. Tuesdays 3-4 in music room 232.

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### Vocal group

Following a very successful year with our vocal group which culminated in a performance at Leeds Arena as part of the Leeds Music festival, we are hoping to continue bringing together students who enjoy singing to be part of events such as these.

Open to anyone who enjoys and has an interest in singing Thursdays 3-4 in music room 232.

### Music practice rooms

We have practice spaces available in the department for students who may wish to come and make use of these during social times or after school. This can be for individual practice, to make music alongside other students or even make use of our music technology software. Students will need to speak with either Miss O'Gorman or Miss Boshier about the use of these rooms as there are times when these are needed for lessons, but wherever possible students are more than welcome to make use of these spaces within the department.

### Music classroom use

We will have our music classrooms open to Year 7 and 8 students during their lunch times once a week. This will allow students a larger space to come along and make music on their own or with others. This will include, keyboards, ukuleles, music technology and many more.

Monday lunchtime - Year 7

Friday lunchtime - Year 8

### Christmas production

We have already held auditions for this event and were extremely impressed with the amount of people wanting to be involved and with the high standards of performances shown. We will be releasing the list of final performances for the event early next week. Please speak with a member of the Performing Arts team if you are interested in being part of the Christmas production event 'A night of stage and screen'. Rehearsals for this will take place on either Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday (you will be asked to attend one).

If you require any further information about any of the opportunities detailed above, please email Miss O'Gorman - [logorman@pudseygrammar.co.uk](mailto:logorman@pudseygrammar.co.uk).

We look forward to welcoming more students into the department.

### Instrumental tuition

I have been really pleased with the numbers of students signing up to participate in instrumental tuition this year and many of these are underway. Our guitar lessons will begin on Monday 29<sup>th</sup>.

Up to now I have been completing timetables on a weekly basis and sending messages





## PUDSEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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#### WEEKLY RILEY

through Form tutors to allow for the settling in period of students signing up, trying out lessons and getting used to the timetable system.

From next week, I will now be looking to complete a timetable for a whole half term at a time. The timetables will continue to be displayed on the doors of the rooms where the lessons take place, and it is each student's responsibility to be checking this on a regular basis.

There are a lot of considerations behind creating the instrumental timetables to ensure there is minimal impact to curriculum lessons and we therefore ask that students stick to their times each week.

If anyone is still interested in signing up for lessons, please do let me know:  
[l.ogorman@pudseygrammar.co.uk](mailto:l.ogorman@pudseygrammar.co.uk)

Miss O'Gorman  
 Subject Leader of Music

### Careers Drop-In Guidance for Years 9–13

We understand that our Year 9–13 students are approaching a time in their lives where they will be making important decisions—whether that's GCSE choices, sixth form, college, apprenticeships, university, employment, or post-18 apprenticeships.

To support them, we are providing weekly drop-in careers guidance sessions for these year groups. Please see the Careers Guidance graphic for details of which day each year group can attend.

These sessions are designed to give students the opportunity to ask questions, explore their options, and feel confident about the next steps in their journey.

Miss Robinson – Careers Lead

**Careers Guidance  
Drop-In Sessions**

<b>MONDAY:</b> YEAR 13	Did you know you can get careers guidance with our in-school advisor 3-4pm every day?  <b>Location:</b> Careers Office, by the science corridor in the sixth form kitchen area.
<b>TUESDAY:</b> YEAR 11	
<b>WEDNESDAY:</b> YEAR 9 and YEAR 10	
<b>THURSDAY:</b> YEAR 12	

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### **CyberFirst Girls Competition 2025 – Ted Pugh**

It's that time of year again, where the girls of Pudsey Grammar show their cyber prowess against other schools across the country. Last year our teams fought their way to third place in Yorkshire and were invited to the prize giving celebration at Bradford University. Registration opens soon, so I am looking for new teams to take part and drive our victories every closer to the top!!

So what is the CyberFirst Girls Competition? The CyberFirst Girls Competition aims to inspire girls interested in technology to pursue a career in cyber security by taking part as a team of 4 in a series of cyber security challenges outside of lesson time. This year, support will be provided through the Cyber Trailblazers Club (Week B Thursdays) - which could also lead to SQA certification as well - to provide a platform and resources to prepare and participate in this time limited event.

Any girls that that would like to take part need to create teams of 4 and either see Mr Pugh on Floor 0 or email [t.pugh@pudseygrammar.co.uk](mailto:t.pugh@pudseygrammar.co.uk) to be registered for the competition itself. It is a lot of fun with some fantastic challenges, certificates for all entries and celebration events for the top teams. We can enter as many teams as we like, so the more that enter the better a chance we have of winning.

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## **Year 7**

### **Parents Information Evening**

Thank you for everyone who came to the evening and responded to the survey. I hope you found it rewarding and a great opportunity to meet the Form tutors. If you missed the evening all the information will be put onto the school website shortly.

### **PGL**

Thank you for everyone who has paid the deposit and replied we have now filled the initial PGL places which were made following the interest form. We do have a waiting list that we encourage parents to join as there will potentially be opportunities to join later in the year.

Mr Lucas  
Year 7 Director of Studies

Miss Birdsall  
Year 7 Leader

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## **YEAR 8**

### **Parent Information Evening**

Thank you to all parents who attended the evening on Wednesday.

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### **Standards Around School**

As a year team we are proud of the positive attitude and conduct shown by the majority of our Year 8 students. We continue to emphasise the importance of:

Showing respect to staff, peers, and the wider school community  
Following instructions first time  
Taking responsibility for behaviour both in and out of the classroom  
Moving calmly and respectfully around the school site

### **Uniform Standards**

A smart appearance reflects a positive attitude towards learning. Please ensure your child comes to school each day in full and correct uniform, including:

School blazer and tie  
Black leather style footwear  
Shirts tucked in at all times  
No excessive jewellery, false nails and hair must be of a natural shade.

Mrs Mitchell  
Year 8 Director of Studies

Mrs Swithenbank  
Year 8 Leader

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## **YEAR 9**

Thank you for attending the Parental Information Evening on Tuesday.

If you was not able to attend the evening, or if you would like to go through the information again please see the two pdf documents linked below.

[https://drive.google.com/open?id=1UGNvZ5xgGXg2t-p\\_iyltnm-CXa8wKx5B](https://drive.google.com/open?id=1UGNvZ5xgGXg2t-p_iyltnm-CXa8wKx5B),  
<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1hCx4B4Ubd8OZY8bbyBRglF5UIq-W8IYX>

After the evening, many of you asked for a list of subjects that are currently offered as options so you are able to start having discussions with your child about it now.

Please see the school link with the list of subjects. Please be mindful these are last years guided choices and could potentially change this year.

<https://www.pudseygrammar.co.uk/year-7-11/year-9/guided-choices-2025/>

Mrs Kaye  
Year 9 Director of Studies

Miss Mathie  
Year 9 Leader



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### YEAR 10

We are delighted to share how proud we are of Year 10 this week. Their attendance and attitudes to learning have been fantastic, and it is clear that they are setting themselves up for success as they move through this important year.

A special well done goes to students in Mr Pugh's and Mrs Snaith's Form groups, who have topped this week's attendance charts, an excellent achievement!

As a reminder, students are rewarded weekly for maintaining 100% attendance. They can choose to spend their points straight away or save them up to trade for a bigger prize further down the line.

On the whole, we have been so impressed with how mature and focused Year 10 have been, both in lessons and around school. They are setting a brilliant example, and we look forward to seeing this momentum continue.

Miss Legg  
Year 10 Director of Studies

Mrs Green  
Year 10 Leader

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### YEAR 11

#### Blackpool

📍 Destination: Blackpool Pleasure Beach

📅 Date: Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2024

#### 📌 Itinerary

🕒 8.20 am: Students arrive at school and report to their Form

🕒 8.45am: Depart for Pleasure Beach

🕒 6.45pm: Return to school

Please note that it could rain on the day so check that students bring a coat etc. Students are welcome to bring a packed lunch or money to use at the conveniences at the park. A grab bag will be prepared for students who are entitled.

#### Time to revise

Good revision habits and routines should be taking place now, not waiting for next week! Please work with students at home to establish good routines - use a revision timetable or something similar to ensure there is time for study, rest and relaxation etc.



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After school, there will be various opportunities for students to stay in school until 4.00pm to work with their teachers. Students can speak with their teachers to see what is available - I am pleased to already see so many of our students engaging in these opportunities and look forward to seeing more students next week!

A reminder of some typical revision tools/techniques we use in school:

Revision Timetable <https://bit.ly/PGS26revisiontimetable>

Revision Clock <https://bit.ly/PGS26revisionclock>

Mind maps <https://bit.ly/PGS26mindmaps>

Flashcards <https://bit.ly/PGS26flashcards>

Mr Syed  
Year 11 Director of Studies

Miss Exley  
Year 11 Leader

## **SIXTH FORM**

### **Important Dates**

Year 12

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> October - Training Day #2

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

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November - Training Day #3

Year 13

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> October - Training Day #2

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

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November – Year 13 Tutorials Commence

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November - Training Day #3

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

w/c Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December - New York Trip

### **Year 13 Parent Information Evening**

Thank you to all the parents who were able to attend the Year 13 Parent Information Evening on Monday. We really appreciate your time, engagement and support. We hope you found the event informative and that it provided valuable insight into the year ahead for your child. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please do not hesitate to get in touch with your son or daughter's Form tutor.

A reminder for Year 13 students who are considering university applications: their first point of contact for personal statement reading and guidance is their Form tutor. For any further support with UCAS administration, students should speak with Miss Robinson in the Careers Office.

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### **Year 12 Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) Launch**

On Tuesday, our Year 12 students took part in a fantastic launch workshop for the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), delivered by the University of Leeds. This event introduced students to the purpose and value of the EPQ and supported them in beginning the process of selecting their project titles. Students are now considering possible titles and areas of research. Any discussions or encouragement at home regarding their ideas would be extremely beneficial as they refine their focus.

As part of the programme, there will be a follow-up visit to the University of Leeds. During this visit, students will have the opportunity to access the university library and take part in workshops to develop key study skills. These skills will not only support them in their EPQ but will also be invaluable for their wider studies and future progression. Further details about this visit will be shared in due course.

This week we have launched our Enrichment Programme Form for Year 12 students. Through this form, students can sign up for a variety of enrichment opportunities and let us know what careers support they may find most useful over the next two years. We kindly ask you to encourage your child to complete the form. The link can be found in the Year 12 Google Classroom.

### **OPPORTUNITIES**

#### **Reduced Offer to the University of Leeds: Reach for Excellence Programme**

Applications are now open for Reach for Excellence (RfE), the University of Leeds' flagship widening participation scheme for the 2025/26 academic year. RfE is designed for Year 12 students with the potential to progress to a research-intensive university but who may not have considered it or who face barriers to entry. The programme offers support throughout Year 12 and Year 13, including academic tasters, personal development workshops, study skills sessions, and enrichment opportunities, all aimed at boosting confidence, attainment, and preparation for university applications. Most activities take place on the University of Leeds campus during school holidays, and participants will also have the chance to apply for a residential summer school in August 2026. Applications must be submitted online by 11.59pm on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2025, with a teacher or tutor reference required. More details, including eligibility criteria, guidance notes, and the application form, can be found on the University of Leeds website:

<https://contextualoutreach.leeds.ac.uk/rfe/rfeapply/>

#### **PwC Business, Accounting and Consulting: Flying Start Programme**

We have an exciting virtual event coming up with PwC, one of the world's leading professional services firms. On Monday 29<sup>th</sup> September from 5.00pm to 6.00pm, students in Years 11, 12 and 13 can gain exclusive insight into PwC's Flying Start Degree Programmes and work experience opportunities. These programmes offer the chance to study at a top university, complete paid placements with PwC, and secure a job offer after graduation – providing a



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fantastic fast track into careers in business, accounting and consulting. If you're ambitious, curious about business, and keen to get a head start in your career, this is an opportunity not to be missed.

[https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PwC\\_FlyingStart](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PwC_FlyingStart)

### **Routes into Medicine Webinar hosted by Hull York Medical School**

Students considering applying to study Medicine are invited to join the 'Supporting a Medicine Applicant' live MediCafé webinar on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> October at 5.30pm. The session will help to demystify the application process and provide practical tools and advice, with admissions experts and student ambassadors on hand to share their experiences and answer questions. Whether students are just beginning to think about Medicine or are already committed to applying, the webinar is open to all. After registering, attendees will receive joining instructions via email, and the event will be hosted on Zoom.

[https://york-ac-uk.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_mjwBHs3dRP6jTuBD4viBsA#/registration](https://york-ac-uk.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_mjwBHs3dRP6jTuBD4viBsA#/registration)

### **NHS Careers Experience Events: October Half Term**

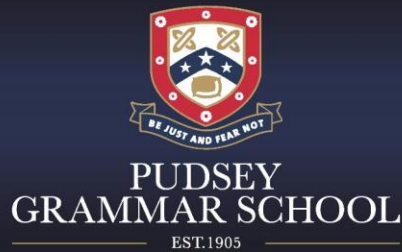
Interested in exploring a career in healthcare? Leeds Teaching Hospitals are hosting Pharmacy Experience Events this October – the perfect chance to discover the exciting world of pharmacy just before half term. Open to students in Year 10 and above, these sessions will give you the opportunity to meet real pharmacy professionals, learn about the variety of career pathways (from apprenticeships to university routes), and ask questions about what it's really like to work in this vital part of the NHS. Whether you're considering an apprenticeship, a degree, or simply want to find out more, this is a fantastic opportunity to get inspired and start shaping your future. Please find below the flyer with details on how to register early!

<https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=sITDN7CF9Ueylge0jXdO4-Ta3DgUxqZPt3r7VPvJtKNUNUICS0FGRUdJQUJMSFNPVzRBWENVNDQyOS4u&route=shorturl>

### **KPMG Business and Finance Apprenticeships!**

KPMG is inviting you to join their Student Talent Community, the best way to stay informed about upcoming 2026 graduate and apprenticeship programmes. By signing up, students will get early access to opportunities, exclusive updates and events, plus insider tips to help strengthen their applications. KPMG offers a wide range of programmes in Audit, Tax, Technology and Consulting, giving students the chance to make an impact on businesses and communities across the UK. The Student Talent Community will be closing soon, so students are encouraged to sign up as early as possible.

[https://www.kpmgcareers.co.uk/student-talent-community?utm\\_source=e4s&utm\\_medium=html&utm\\_campaign=ps\\_sr26-stce&utm\\_content=stce\\_careers-advisors\\_nationwide\\_text\\_na\\_sep25](https://www.kpmgcareers.co.uk/student-talent-community?utm_source=e4s&utm_medium=html&utm_campaign=ps_sr26-stce&utm_content=stce_careers-advisors_nationwide_text_na_sep25)



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[https://drive.google.com/file/d/13kmh8evSpm8Tun\\_sCEdSwmEbdjInkyhS/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/13kmh8evSpm8Tun_sCEdSwmEbdjInkyhS/view)

### Careers in Banking: On-site work experience

HSBC is offering a Work Experience programme for students in Years 10–13, providing a valuable insight into the financial services industry and the wide range of career paths available within the bank. Taking place either from Monday 7<sup>th</sup> to Friday 11<sup>th</sup> July or Monday 4<sup>th</sup> to Friday 8<sup>th</sup> August, the hybrid programme includes two on-site days (Wednesday and Thursday) alongside virtual sessions. Students will gain real-life work experience to strengthen their CV, learn about HSBC's Early Careers opportunities, and develop key employability skills. A Certificate of Attendance will be awarded on completion, and participants will also have the chance to network and build professional connections. Applications close on Tuesday 4 March at 11:59pm, so interested students should apply as soon as possible.

<https://www.leedsforlearning.co.uk/Article/169687>

### Leeds Young Leaders Programme

Swinnow Community Centre is launching a Young Leaders Programme for 15–21-year-olds across Leeds, running from January to December 2026.

This year-long opportunity is designed to help young people develop essential life skills, gain valuable experience, and make a real difference in their community. Participants will complete:

- 200 hours of volunteering
- receive mentorship from experienced professionals
- work towards a certificate of achievement to support future education or employment
- take part in a reward ceremony in December

Applications open on 1<sup>st</sup> October and close on 14<sup>th</sup> November, with interviews for shortlisted candidates taking place in December.

To apply or find out more, contact Amy via [amy.swinnowcic@gmail.com](mailto:amy.swinnowcic@gmail.com) or Maddy via [maddy.swinnowcic@gmail.com](mailto:maddy.swinnowcic@gmail.com).

Spaces are limited, so early applications are encouraged.

Have a great weekend.

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