

**PARENT & CARER
WEEKLY BULLETIN
Friday 17th October 2025**

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

We were delighted to welcome double the number of visitors we normally have at our Sixth Form Opening Evening on Wednesday. We had so many people in the building that we had to hold two talks as we couldn't fit them all into the main hall at the same time. Our visitors were extremely impressed with the staff, Sixth Form students and with the fantastic range of courses and enrichment opportunities that we offer.

Today, as part of our ongoing lunch time music events, our Year 7s were treated to several live performances during their lunch break, including a memorable rendition of Sweet Caroline, which had a significant number of students, staff and some Sixth Formers who were passing through singing and dancing in the dining hall. It was a lovely way to finish the week.

Mark McKelvie
Headteacher

GENERAL NOTICES

Student access to the playground after school

We are allowing a limited number of students to stay and play ball games in the playground after school has finished for the day. As this will be taking place outside our regular scheduled breaks and at the end of the day we cannot provide supervision. Students have really valued this privilege in previous years as the school playground allows students a safe place for them to play, particularly as the dark nights are drawing in as the area is well lit.

Ms Frost
PA to the Headteacher

Parent governor vacancy

We have an exciting opportunity available for a parent who is interested in supporting the school as a parent governor. The role of parent governor is highly rewarding and enables you to support the school's leadership, ensure accountability and contribute to long-term planning. If you would like to know more about the role please email me and I will direct your enquiry to the Chair of Governors, David Webster.

If you would like to apply for the position please email me a 3 paragraph statement at h.frost@pudseygrammar.co.uk and advise why you would like to be a parent governor and what experience/expertise you could bring to the role.

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The closing date for this position is Friday 7th November 2025 at 12.00pm.

Ms Frost
PA to the Headteacher

Half term break

The school will close on Friday 24th October 2025 at 2.10pm for the half term break and will re-open on Monday 3rd November 2025 at the normal time.

Ms Frost
PA to the Headteacher

Absence Reporting

A polite reminder that all student absences must be reported before 9.00am on each day of absence.

You can notify us by:

Calling or leaving a voicemail on the Attendance Line 0113 255 8277
Emailing: attendance@pudseygrammar.co.uk
Using the Arbor app

Thank you for helping us keep our attendance records up to date.

Medical/Dental Appointments

Please ensure that, wherever possible, supporting evidence is provided for any medical or dental appointments, as absences may not always be authorised without it.

Attendance staff must also be informed in advance of any appointments during the school day so that permission can be given for students to leave the school site — either with a parent/carers or on their own (if appropriate).

Thank you for your cooperation in helping us maintain accurate attendance records.

Attendance Team

Strategy Club Relaunch

Thank you for your patience, everyone; for a variety of reasons we've been reorganising the Strategy Club to ensure sufficient staffing, additional access to resources and suitable roomings. I am proud to announce that we are relaunching the club on a new regular date and location.

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NEW DAY: Wednesday
TIME: 3.00pm-4.30pm
START DATE: 22nd October 2025
ROOM: 213/214

The positive to this is that we can run every week of the year with minimal interruptions. Of course, House Competitions and Interventions take priority but, if available, all students are invited back to the biggest club in the history of Pudsey Grammar School!! We will hopefully move back to the School Hall after Christmas, but we will still meet on the Street as usual.

Thank you for your patience and I look forward to many more exciting announcements about the future of the club.

Mr Pugh
Teacher of ICT/Computing

Year 7

Restart a Heart

This week we had the team from the West Yorkshire Ambulance Service come in and teach the whole of Year 7 the lifesaving skill of CPR. They were taught the technique by paramedics then had the opportunity to practice on mannequins. They behaved brilliantly, were really engaged throughout and a credit to the school.

Mr Lucas
Year 7 Director of Studies

Mrs Swithenbank
Acting Year 7 Leader

YEAR 8

As we approach the end of the first half term of Year 8, we have noted many students have already stood out for their effort, kindness, and enthusiasm, and it's been wonderful to see so many stepping up as role models for each other.

The Year 8 team are particularly impressed with the maturity and focus shown in class, and we've had some brilliant work produced across subjects. A huge well done to all our students – keep it up!

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Equipment Reminder

To ensure every student can make the most of their learning, please can we remind all families that students are expected to arrive at school each day with the correct equipment. This includes:

Pen - Red and black
Pencil
Ruler
Planner
Reading book
Knowledge Organiser

Being prepared allows students to start each lesson confidently and without delay.

Attendance

I would also like to take this opportunity to highlight the vital role that excellent attendance plays in academic progress and social development. Every day in school counts, and even occasional absences can make it harder for students to stay on track.

We know that sometimes absence is unavoidable, but we appreciate your support in ensuring that your child attends school regularly and on time.

Mrs Mitchell
Year 8 Director of Studies

Mrs Swithenbank
Year 8 Leader

YEAR 9

Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award Assembly

This week, Ian from the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme visited our school to deliver a 20-minute assembly to our students. He spoke about the Bronze Award and outlined what participants need to do to complete the programme.

The students were fantastic throughout the assembly, showing great engagement and enthusiasm. It was especially lovely to see so many of them asking thoughtful questions afterwards.

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Further information will be shared in printed letters. If your child is interested in taking part, please encourage them to collect a letter from the Floor One Year Office.

Mrs Kaye
Year 9 Director of Studies

Miss Mathie
Year 9 Leader

YEAR 10

Next week, students will receive information in assembly about their upcoming assessment week, which will begin on Monday, 10th November. During this assembly, they will be told about the topics that will be covered in each subject. Our aim is to ensure all students feel well prepared and confident ahead of this first data capture point. I will also add details on the topics to the bulletin next week, so you are able to support at home.

We have noticed an increasing number of students arriving at school in the morning with energy drinks. Please be reminded that energy drinks are not permitted in school and will be confiscated if seen. These drinks often contain very high levels of sugar and caffeine, which can lead to heightened behaviour, difficulty concentrating, and energy crashes later in the day. We would appreciate your support in ensuring students do not bring or consume these before school.

Miss Legg
Year 10 Director of Studies

Mrs Green
Year 10 Leader

YEAR 11

Half-Term GCSE Intervention Session for Design and Technology

I am writing to inform you of the details for our upcoming GCSE intervention programme, which will take place during the October half-term holiday. This will take place on Monday 27th October from 10.00am-2.00pm. I would suggest that you send your child a packed lunch for the session.

I understand that half-term is a valuable time for rest. However, we ask for your support in ensuring your child attends these important sessions. Please encourage them to take full advantage of this opportunity, which I believe will make a significant difference to their final grades.

Mrs Snaith
Subject Leader of Design Technology

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Year 11 Assessments

✦ Assessment Timetable and Dates

Please see the link to a one-page document with an update to key dates and times. A physical copy has been provided to students too.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1QSLcdr_1dW2O2hFxmSDRsqa8com2hMZs/view?usp=sharing

📅 November Trial Exams begin - 17th November

📅 November Trial Exams end - 27th November

✦ Revision Guides

A message has gone out to parents regarding the purchase of revision guides. Please complete any orders as soon as possible as there will be a tight turn around on this in order to get the students accessing these resources. Discuss the guides students would like with them directly or contact the subject leader for advice.

✦ Revision Resources

We welcome students to stay after school on the floor one open learning area as a space for students to revise/study independently throughout the week. There are also intervention sessions being held for students on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. To compliment this, we do advise students to also be revising at home to cover content. I have copied some resources to support revision at home:

✦ www.bit.ly/PGS26flashcards

✦ www.bit.ly/PGS26mindmaps

✦ www.bit.ly/PGS26revisionclock

On the student intranet, there is also a section called Revision Resources that students can access and includes all sorts of revision resources and past papers.

Mr Syed
Year 11 Director of Studies

Miss Exley
Year 11 Leader

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SIXTH FORM

Important Dates

Year 12

w/c Monday 17th November – Year 12 Assessment Week 1 (in class)
Friday 28th November - Training Day #3

Year 13

Monday 3rd November – Year 13 Tutorials Commence
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

Sixth Form Open Evening – A Huge Thank You!

We would like to extend a huge thank you to all our Year 12 and 13 students who supported our Sixth Form Open Evening this week. It's always a big effort to bring the event together each year, and our students handled it brilliantly — welcoming visitors, sharing their experiences, and showcasing the very best of our school community. We are incredibly proud of the maturity, enthusiasm, and teamwork they demonstrated throughout the evening.

Upcoming In-School Careers Events – November Edition

In November, our monthly Careers Workshop and Drop-In Event will focus on university applications, with a particular emphasis on alternative routes into university. We're delighted to be joined by representatives from the University of Leeds, who will host a workshop explaining the Access to Leeds scheme — what it is, how it works, and how to apply. Following the workshop, they will also offer a 1:1 drop-in guidance session (on general HE or personal statement readings) on a first-come, first-served basis. Year 12 and 13 students can sign up via the Careers Classroom to secure their place.

Careers Events Next Week

Next week, we have several exciting career events taking place in school. On Tuesday 21st October, students who have registered for the Degree Apprenticeship Workshop run by the University of Huddersfield will see a careers event on their Arbor timetable for period 1. The workshop will take place in rooms 213/214 (double classroom). On Friday 24th October, we are delighted to welcome Pete Stevenson, Director of The Edge Picture Company, who will deliver a whole Sixth Form talk about his career journey during assembly. This will be followed by a film-making masterclass for all Year 12 and 13 Media students during period 2 in the main hall. This is a mandatory and exclusive event for Post-16 Media students. If you have any questions, please email prospects@pudseygrammar.co.uk.

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OPPORTUNITIES

During the October half-term, Young Professionals is running four in-person Work Experience Days across London, Birmingham and Manchester in partnership with around 50 of the world's leading organisations in business, accounting and law. These events are open to students in Years 11, 12, 13 and at university who want to gain real-world experience, meet top employers and take part in industry workshops to develop their professional skills. The Birmingham Business and Accounting Conference will take place on Friday 31st October at Aston Conference Centre (sessions 9.00am–12.30pm or 1.00pm–4.30pm). The London Law Conference will run at the O2 Arena, Indigo @The O2, from 10.00am–4.30pm. The Manchester Conference will be held at the Deansgate Hotel on Wednesday 29th October, with Business and Accounting from 9.30am–1.00pm and Law from 1.30pm–5.00pm. Students can find more information and apply at the following links. Places are limited and expected to fill quickly, so early application is advised.

<https://mailchi.mp/young-professionals/young-professionals-work-experience-day-manchester-12768873>

<https://mailchi.mp/young-professionals/in-person-student-law-events-with-50-law-firms-apply-today-12768903>

<https://mailchi.mp/young-professionals/young-professionals-work-experience-day-manchester-12768848>

University of Leeds Year 12 Reduced Offer Programme

Applications are now open for the University of Leeds' Reach for Excellence (RfE) programme for the 2025/26 academic year. RfE is a free two-year widening participation scheme designed to support high-achieving Year 12 students who have the potential to study at a research-intensive university but may face barriers to doing so. Since 2007, the programme has helped students develop academic confidence, strengthen attainment, and make informed decisions about university and careers. Participants take part in subject-specific academic tasters, personal development workshops, study skills sessions, and enrichment activities, with most events held on campus during school holidays to minimise disruption. Students are also invited to apply for a residential summer school at the University of Leeds in August 2026. Applications must be submitted online by 11.59pm on Thursday 13th November 2025, and teacher references will be requested after submission. Further details, eligibility criteria, and the application form can be found at

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

Linklaters: Insight into Law Careers & Apprenticeships

Linklaters, one of the world's leading global law firms and a member of the Magic Circle, is hosting a Virtual Insight Event focused on its Solicitor Apprenticeship Programme on Tuesday 21st October from 5.00pm to 6.30pm. Open to Year 12 and Year 13 students aspiring to enter



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the legal profession, this event will offer a valuable introduction to commercial law through interactive workshops, activities and networking opportunities with Linklaters professionals. Attendees will gain first-hand insight into the workings of a top international corporate law firm, learn about work experience, internships and solicitor apprenticeship routes, and have the chance to ask questions directly to senior legal professionals. Students who take part will also receive a certificate of participation, which can be added to their CV or LinkedIn profile. https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Linklaters_Virtual

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