

**PARENT & CARER
WEEKLY BULLETIN
Friday 24th October 2025**

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

As we come to the end of what is the longest half term in the academic year although both staff and students are ready for a break, it has been an extremely successful start to the year. Our new Year 7 students have settled in well whilst the rest of our students are making good progress with their new teachers and classes. We have had a successful Sixth Form Open Evening with record numbers attending, our House system is fully underway (I'm judging the poetry competition!) and we currently have a Year 9 trip to Iceland underway.

Despite the national picture, our whole school attendance has also improved but as we enter the winter months it is important that we all work together to ensure your children are in school every single day. Thank you for your support so far this year.

I hope you manage to spend some time together with your family over the next week and we'll look forward to welcoming the students back at the usual time on Monday 3rd November.

Mark McKelvie
Headteacher

GENERAL NOTICES

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

100% Attendance points -double points

This half term we have launched an attendance initiative to recognise and reward students with excellent attendance. For every week of full attendance students get a 100% sticker in their planner worth one 100% Attendance point. These Attendance points can be redeemed for prizes. So far students have been claiming the 1,2 and 5 point prizes. Students can also save up their points for bigger prizes and even swap them for raffle tickets later in the year for star prizes. I am delighted to say that we are giving out over 900 Attendance points per week to Year 7 to 11. For the first week back after half term we will be rewarding students with DOUBLE

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POINTS if they have 100% attendance that week, this means they will get 2 points instead of 1 point. This is one way to increase the number of Attendance points students have.

Mr Tierney
Deputy Headteacher

Children in Need

On the 14th November as a school we will be holding a non-uniform day to support Children in Need. As we have done over the last few years, we will use this event to not only raise money for Children in Need, but also Pudsey Community Project, a local charity we partner with. Both these charities directly help families and young people in the local area and are great causes to get behind.

After half term an item will be available on ParentMail to donate to this cause and more information will be given to students in Form time and assemblies.

Mr Sammons
Assistant Headteacher

History Club

We are delighted to invite students to join our History Club, running every Tuesday of Week A from 3.00pm–4.00pm in Room 114. The club offers an exciting opportunity for students to discover the past, develop their curiosity, and build key skills such as critical thinking, debate, and teamwork through engaging discussions and interactive activities.

This half-term, our theme will be the rise and expansion of the Spanish Empire and its role in colonisation, giving students the chance to explore how global history shaped the modern world. Participation in History Club not only broadens historical knowledge but also strengthens analytical and communication skills that support success across subjects. It is also a great way to meet like-minded peers and nurture a genuine love of learning.

If you would like further details, please feel free to contact Mr Alderson, Subject Leader of History, at the school via email at r.alderson@pudseygrammar.co.uk.

Mr Alderson
Subject Leader of History

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Year 7

We have now completed the first half term at Pudsey Grammar, and we have been really impressed by how the year has adapted to their new surroundings. It is our longest half term with huge amounts of changes for the students. Throughout this, Year 7 have been doing the little things right every day and it is helping them to start off their time brilliantly. We want to wish everyone a restful half term and come back refreshed ready to start the next term with the same enthusiasm. We will be starting on Week A when we come back

Mr Lucas
Year 7 Director of Studies

Mrs Swithenbank
Acting Year 7 Leader

YEAR 8

Year 8 students have had a great first half term, across all subjects, students have settled quickly into new routines and have shown impressive engagement with their learning. Teachers have been particularly pleased with their focus, participation, and willingness to challenge themselves in lessons.

This half term, Year 8 have truly embodied our school values of respect, integrity, resilience, compassion, and ambition, these values sit at the heart of our school. We've seen respect in the way students treat staff and peers, integrity in their honesty and effort, resilience when facing new challenges, compassion in their kindness and support for others, and ambition in their drive to achieve their best.

After a well-deserved rest over the half-term break, we'll return ready for another successful half term.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Y8 Team

Mrs Mitchell
Year 8 Director of Studies

Mrs Swithenbank
Year 8 Leader

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YEAR 9

This week in assembly, we took a period of reflection on our first half-term. I also spoke about the recent Parent Information Evening, and it was wonderful to see so many of you again.

During assembly, we discussed a few key points: the Unacceptable theatre performance and the assembly with Ian from the Duke of Edinburgh Awards. All letters relating to these activities have now been emailed to parents and carers. If your child is interested, please refer to these communications.

I acknowledged that this has been a particularly long half-term and encouraged students to use the upcoming break to rest, recharge, and reset. Over half-term, I have asked students to audit their equipment to ensure they have the essentials, such as pens, pencils, ruler, and reading book.

Looking ahead to Half Term 2, I have set the year group three challenges:

Personal goal: Be more positive with ourselves and others.

Learning goal: Improve focus in lessons as we prepare to select GCSE options.

Community goal: Show kindness to our environment.

Thank you for your continued support, and I wish all our students a restful and refreshing half-term break.

Mrs Kaye
Year 9 Director of Studies

Mrs Williams
Acting Year 9 Leader

YEAR 10

Year 10 Assessment week will take place during the week commencing Monday 10th November. These assessments will be classroom-based, with students completing them during their usual 50-minute or 1-hour lesson slots.

This is a valuable opportunity for students to reflect on how well they have started their GCSE courses, to become familiar with assessment styles, and to identify areas for improvement before their final exams. Staff have shared the topics being assessed and recommended revision methods on Arbor. Students are encouraged to use the half term break to prepare and revise thoroughly.

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Subject What topics will be assessed?

Maths Non Calculator methods, prime factors, sequences, rules of indices, standard form, expanding brackets and factoring.

English Paper 2 Question 5 - speech writing

Science - Cells (B1), Atomic Structure (C1), Energy (P1) Communicable disease (B3), Chemical Bonding (C2)

History Paper 1 Crime and Punishment (Medieval and Early Modern Topics)

Geography Resource Management, Rivers

Art Still life drawing

Enterprise N/A

Religious Education Religion and Life/ Christian Beliefs

Media N/A

Business Studies 1.1 Enterprise and entrepreneurship, 1.2 Spotting a business opportunity 1.3 Putting a business idea into practice

ICT Comp 1 Controlled Assessment

Computing J277 - Paper 01 Computer Systems

Mandarin Written Mandarin. Theme 1- family, personal description

French Written French. Theme 1- family, personal description, basic past and future. Listening: dictation

Spanish Written Spanish. Theme 1- family, personal description, basic past and future

Photography Recreation and Inspired shoot Edit Variations (Photoshop practicals)

Child Development Growth and development

Construction Unit 1.1 The sector - Buildings and Structures - Infrastructure and Civil Engineering products

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Hospitality and Catering Unit 1. 4 Food safety in Hospitality and catering

Performing Arts N/A

PE GCSE Paper 1 Assessment - Skeletal, Muscular, Cardiovascular Systems & Movement Analysis

Music N/A

Product Design - design and technology and our world

Miss Legg
Year 10 Director of Studies

Mrs Green
Year 10 Leader

YEAR 11

November Trial Exams

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

Trial exams will commence two weeks after returning from the half term break:

 November Trial Exams begin - 17th November

 November Trial Exams end - 27th November

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 during the school week. 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

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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. All students have Knowledge Organisers that they can use in combination with the strategies above.

Half term will be a great opportunity to make use of a revision timetable to organise and plan for good revision. Use the document below to help you put one together for use over the next week:

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1cQPdRz7TViLkgQ8pITmpk1asOFmoeNg4_-JuXmLO3zE/edit?usp=sharing

The link below has been taken from the BBC bitesize page to support students with exam stress:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/z8dw239>

Mr Syed
Year 11 Director of Studies

Miss Duffy
Acting Year 11 Leader

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

Enrichment Activities

Enrichment activities are starting w/c Monday 3rd November (if they haven't already begun). Students have signed up for a variety of exciting activities and should have received details about when and where their sessions will take place. We hope our students enjoy taking part and make the most of these opportunities to develop new skills and interests. If students have any questions or haven't yet received information about their activity, please speak to a member of the P16 Team.



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Events w/c 3rd November

We have an exciting week of enrichment opportunities lined up for our Sixth Form students following the half-term break:

Maths (Year 12): Students will enjoy a talk by Adam Booth, on subjects within the School of Earth Sciences at the University of Leeds. This session will take place during their timetabled maths lesson.

History and Government & Politics (All Students): On Thursday, students will take part in An Audience with Sir Roderic Lyne, former British Ambassador to Russia. Information has been shared with students in lessons and via their Google Classrooms.

Step Up Programme (Year 12): On Friday, students who have signed up for the Step-Up programme will attend their first two workshops, delivered by Georgie Santavano from the University of Oxford.

Sessions have been added to Arbor and if a session affects a student's normal timetable, teachers have been informed. Sessions appear as a "Careers Event" on Arbor—students can click into the event to see the rooming and staff member responsible. It promises to be a fantastic week of inspiration and opportunity for our Sixth Formers!

Year 13 New York Parent Meeting: 13th November

Parents and carers of Year 13 students attending the New York trip this December are invited to a Parent Information Meeting on Thursday 13th November, from 5.30pm–6.30pm. During the session, Mr Hodge (Trip Lead) will share slides outlining the itinerary, key details, and important information to note before the visit. Doors open: 5.15pm. If you are unable to attend, please let us know — all information will be shared with you after the event.

OPPORTUNITIES

Careers in Pathology

Students are invited to attend on Wednesday 5th November 2025 — a free virtual event exploring how pathology tests play a vital role in preventing, diagnosing, and treating disease. The session will feature short, engaging talks from professionals across the field, offering insight into a wide range of pathology tests, from routine blood work to the diagnosis of rare conditions. This event is ideal for sixth form and university students interested in medicine, biomedical science, or healthcare, but is open to anyone curious about how science supports patient care. To secure a place, visit the Royal College of Pathologists' website: <https://www.rcpath.org/event/pathology-solutions-how-tests-help-patients.html>



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Apprenticeship 2 Day Remote Work Experience Opportunity

Students interested in exploring apprenticeships and discovering whether this could be the right path for them are invited to join a free two-day remote work experience as part of National Apprenticeship Week. Taking place on Tuesday 10th and Wednesday 11th February from 9.30am to 2.30pm each day, the event will be hosted online via Google Classrooms and will feature employers and apprentices from organisations such as Tetra Tech, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, and the NHS. Participants will gain first-hand insight into how apprentices work while earning their qualifications, meet professionals from Level 2 to Degree level, and take part in a live team project. This interactive experience is a great opportunity to build skills, expand career knowledge, and connect with like-minded students. Applications are now open—students are encouraged to apply early to secure their place.

<https://finder.futuresforall.org/opportunity-detail/0D5C3546-0955-4F5B-496C-08DDFCD42FDA>

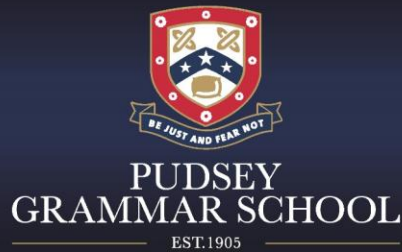
In-person BTEC/A-Level Business Studies Work Experience Week

The Leeds Business Anchors Network is offering a dedicated week-long work experience programme for care-experienced young people, running from Monday 24th to Friday 28th November, 10.00am to 3.00pm each day, with a celebration event from 3.00pm–4.00pm on the Friday. Each day will be hosted by a different city-centre business, including GGI (technology consultants), Mott MacDonald (engineering), Burberry, Addleshaw Goddard (legal), and Leeds Building Society. The programme aims to give participants an introduction to a range of career options, a positive experience of professional workplace environments, and insight into apprenticeship and graduate opportunities within the Leeds Business Anchors network. This opportunity is open to care-experienced young people aged 16 and over who are currently studying at college, sixth form, or university and can commit to the full five days. Interested students can complete the 'Expression of Interest' form on the Careers Google Classroom.

NHS Health & Social Care Careers Webinar

Students interested in health and social care can join the Allied Health Professional Support Worker Careers Webinar on Thursday 13th November from 1.00pm to 2.30pm via Microsoft Teams. This online session is open to students in Years 7–13 and will introduce the role of Allied Health Professional Support Workers, the different training and career pathways available, and tips on how to get started in this rewarding field. Attendees will also hear directly from current support workers about their experiences. Anyone unable to attend live can still register to receive a recording and presentation materials afterwards. You can sign up here:

<https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/45bc4e0b-875f-4016-a4ae-ebc26ed267e3@37c354b2-85b0-47f5-b222-07b48d774ee3>



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Big Ideas Challenge: Mayor of Leeds

The Mayor of West Yorkshire, Tracy Brabin, has launched the Big Ideas Challenge to empower young people aged 16 to 26 to create innovative solutions to issues that matter most to them. Opening on 8th October, the competition invites individuals or teams to apply by 30th November 2025 for a place on a free, specially designed programme. Finalists will learn how to turn their ideas into creative solutions and pitch them confidently, with every participant receiving a minimum £100 voucher. Additional prizes worth up to £625 are available for standout ideas. Applications can be submitted in writing, video, or audio, and should demonstrate innovation, empathy, and motivation to tackle challenges faced by young people. There are 54 places available across three age groups (16–18, 19–21, and 22–26). For more information or to apply contact BigIdeasChallenge@tpximpact.com <https://www.wybusiness-skills.com/business-support/growth-support/innovation-hub/create-a-better-future-with-the-mayor-s-big-ideas-challenge/>

Tetra Tech Project Management Work Experience

Students aged 16–19 are invited to take part in a two-day remote work experience placement with Tetra Tech on 10th and 11th December, offering an excellent opportunity to learn about careers and apprenticeships in Environmental Services, Engineering, Quantity Surveying, and Project Management. Day one will focus on sustainability and the environment, with students working in small teams on a project brief to develop key skills and gain real-world experience. Day two will focus on apprenticeships, where Tetra Tech's HR team will introduce upcoming apprenticeship opportunities (opening this November), explain the application process, and share insights into what they look for in candidates. This placement is ideal for students interested in sustainable development and looking to get a head start on future apprenticeship applications. The event runs from 9.30am to 2.30pm each day, and applications close on 21st November. Students can apply via the link provided on the flyer. https://www.canva.com/design/DAG13igIFjo/i6V1J5jy9pQRbjlT0b2AA/view?utm_content=DAG13igIFjo&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link2&utm_source=uniquelinks&utlId=h406df5e37a

Finally, we would like to thank our Year 12 and Year 13 students for their hard work and dedication this half term. We wish all our students and their families a restful and well-deserved break.

Mrs Smith
Assistant Director of Sixth Form

Miss Robinson
Careers and Progression Manager

Miss Hart
Attendance and Pastoral Support

Mrs Scott
Supervised Study Co-Ordinator