



**PARENT & CARER
WEEKLY BULLETIN**
Friday 23rd January 2026

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

Our school's uniqueness is reflected in many ways from being at the heart of a wider community for over 120 years to having had only 6 Headteachers during that time. The aspect which makes us distinctive is that we have a growing and thriving Sixth Form when many other schools have decided to close theirs. Last week myself and the rest of the Leadership team were interviewing students who have applied for our Sixth Form from across the town. It is encouraging to see young people who maybe could not get into our school in Year 7 still wanting to be part of the unique community that we have created here.

Our Sixth Form has around 250 students and it is extremely encouraging to see when the landscape both in the town and the city is providing large colleges for students, they enjoy the fact that in this school we can not only provide a great education and experiences for the students in the Sixth Form, but crucially that we get to know them extremely well as individuals. As a result of that we can support them as they move into the next stage of their lives.

Mark McKelvie
Headteacher

GENERAL NOTICES

Lesson Engagement, Behaviour Systems & Detentions

We would like to remind all families of the importance of students remaining in lessons for the full duration of every period. Full engagement in learning is essential for strong progress, and any missed time—whether at the start, middle or end of a lesson, can result in key content being lost.

As part of our school's behaviour system, teaching staff will continue to call home if a student is removed from a lesson. Your support with these conversations is vital in helping students understand the impact of their choices and in ensuring they remain focused throughout the school day. Moving forward, we are placing particular emphasis on students returning promptly and calmly after break and lunchtime, as removals during these times have a significant impact on learning.

In addition, we would like to reinforce the importance of students attending detentions when they are issued. Appropriate notice is always given so that families can make necessary arrangements, including ensuring students can travel home safely if it is dark. Detentions play

PARENT & CARER WEEKLY BULLETIN

an important role in maintaining high expectations and supporting students in meeting our behaviour standards.

Thank you for your ongoing support in helping every student achieve their full potential

Mr McCroakam
Assistant Headteacher - Ethos and culture

Taking opportunities/Extra curricular

This week in assemblies I challenged students to take opportunities when they occur. Saying "Yes" allows us to try new things and we never know the rewards we might receive.

At PGS we have a range of extra curricular activities available for students to try. This term this includes:

Sport:

Basketball
Badminton
Pickleball
Circuit Training

Music:

School Band - Tuesday after School
Vocal Group - Thursday after School

Other Clubs:

Debating Club - Wednesday after School
Strategy Club - Wednesday after School
Japanese Club - Thursday week A after School
Cyber Trailblazers - Thursday week B after School
History Club - Tuesday week B after School
Philosophy Club - Starting soon
Photography Club - Monday-Thursday after school (Just GCSE and A level)
Art Club - Tuesday and Thursday after school (Just GCSE and A level)

This is in addition to House events every week where students can represent their House in a huge range of activities.

Please help encourage your child to get involved and try something new this half term.

Mr Sammons
Assistant Headteacher

PARENT & CARER WEEKLY BULLETIN

New School Telephone Greeting and Options from Monday 26th January 2026

We are pleased to announce the introduction of our new telephone greeting and menu options, designed to ensure that your call reaches the right department or member of staff as swiftly as possible. The updated system also provides clear guidance on who to communicate with in school regarding specific issues, helping you find the most appropriate support for your query. Our school website is an excellent resource for identifying the best person to contact and can answer many frequently asked questions –

www.pudseygrammar.co.uk.

A reminder to parents/carers that we aim to acknowledge emails as soon as possible and respond in full or arrange a meeting/phone call within 48 hours. If the concern is urgent (family emergency/safeguarding or welfare issues) please call the school main number on 0113 2558277.

Miss Frost
PA to the Headteacher

Young Artists' Summer Show 2026

Calling all creatives from Year 7 – Year 13 - do you want the chance for your artwork/photography/craft to be exhibited at the Royal Academy of Art this summer in London? If you would like the chance for this incredible opportunity, choose a piece that YOU have produced, make sure it has your name, a title and a short description and send via email to Miss Chappell at e.chappell@pudseygrammar.co.uk or hand in to room 031 before form time. Closing date is Wednesday 4th March, so get your entries in!

Miss Chappell
Teacher of Art

Year 12 Work Experience Week

At the end of the academic year, from Monday 13th July to Friday 17th July, we will be hosting our Year 12 Work Experience Week for students aged 16–17.

We know that parents and carers of our students work across a wide range of sectors, including education, STEM, business, healthcare, construction, creative industries, and many more. We are therefore reaching out to see whether your workplace might be able to host a Year 12 student at the end of the academic year.

All that is required from an employer is a public liability insurance certificate that covers students aged 16+ on work experience. Placements are always extremely well received by our students and play a vital role in helping them explore future career pathways.

PARENT & CARER WEEKLY BULLETIN

If you, or your employer, may be able to offer a placement, please email prospects@pudseygrammar.co.uk with:

- Confirmation that you could host a student, and
- A contact email address for the employer.

We will then advertise the vacancy on your behalf and help identify a suitable student for the placement. Thank you for your continued support in helping our students develop their career aspirations.

Miss Robinson
Careers Lead

Mandarin group changes - applicable to KS3 students of Mandarin only (Years 7, 8 & 9)

In order to manage our data systems more effectively, please be aware that any requests for students to change Mandarin group can now only be made during the first two weeks of each term. The next time that parents/carers can request a change will be in April. Many thanks for your understanding.

Mrs Maloney
Subject Leader of MFL

Year 7

Year 7 have carried on their good progress from the first term, and we are happy with how they are applying themselves. We now have the data from the first capture point. We will review the data and format and then print and send out the first progress reports. There will be guidance around what the grades and ATL mean as it will be the first time using our reports for a lot of parents.

We also have our first Parents Evening coming up on the 5th February. Our parents Evenings are online and a letter with guidance will be sent out to you on how to book on. The booking system will be live at 10am on Monday 26th January. Please be aware your details on the booking system are the same as we have on Arbor so it will need to match. Some teachers will teach multiple Year 7 classes and there are limited spaces.

Mr Lucas
Year 7 Director of Studies

Miss White
Year 7 Leader

PARENT & CARER WEEKLY BULLETIN

YEAR 8

We are pleased to relaunch our attendance rewards scheme for Year 8 students. Regular attendance is essential for both academic progress and wellbeing, and we want to recognise and celebrate students who demonstrate strong commitment to school.

Students who achieve 100% attendance in a week will be able to exchange these weeks for rewards, including items such as sweets, chocolate, and gift vouchers. The more weeks of full attendance a student builds up, the more opportunities they will have to earn rewards.

We ask for parents' continued support in reinforcing the importance of daily attendance and punctuality, and in encouraging students to aim for 100% attendance wherever possible.

Thank you for your ongoing support in helping Year 8 students build positive habits that will benefit them throughout their school career.

Miss Norris
Acting Year 8 Director of Studies

Mrs Swithenbank
Year 8 Leader

YEAR 9

This week, Mr Sammons delivered a fantastic assembly centred on the power of saying "yes" and the opportunities that open up when students step outside their comfort zone. He spoke about how small moments of courage can lead to new experiences, new friendships, and unexpected successes.

We would really encourage our students to put this message into action by getting involved in the wider life of the school. Whether it is a after school club, taking part in upcoming House competitions, or simply trying something new, saying "yes" builds confidence, resilience, and a stronger sense of community.

Mrs Kaye
Year 9 Director of Studies

Mr Inman
Year 9 Leader

PARENT & CARER WEEKLY BULLETIN

YEAR 10

Students attending the Photography trip to Huddersfield University will be leaving school promptly at 8.00am and are expected to return to school at approximately 3.50pm. Students do not need to wear school uniform for this trip. Please ensure they arrive on time and are suitably prepared for the day.

Many students are currently in the midst of coursework, and this can be a demanding period. We encourage parents to check in with their child about how their coursework is progressing and to offer support where possible.

Assessment Week will take place beginning 2nd February. This will provide a useful indication of how students are progressing across their subjects. Further details, including topics for each subject, will be shared in next week's bulletin.

Miss Legg
Year 10 Director of Studies

Mrs Green
Year 10 Leader

YEAR 11

Year 11 have now completed the first week of their January trial exams. Next week students will continue exams in both Photography and Art, which are 10 hour examinations.

Students have impressed us so far in how they have accessed these exams and with how they have focused in the sessions. Lessons continue for all other students without exams.

This half term students will also sit other in-class assessments as we head towards our next data capture point, alongside practical examinations in subjects like Food and Music.

Please continue to support students in accessing after school interventions that run every evening apart from Friday.

Parents Evening - 12th February 2026 (Re-scheduled Event)

The Year 11 Parents Evening has now been rescheduled. We apologise for the IT issues which impacted last week's session. We will be sending out details about bookings and when these go live. Parents will be able to book all sessions if they didn't have appointments or book individually by teacher. Please do contact us if you have any questions.

Mr Syed
Year 11 Director of Studies

Miss Exley
Year 11 Leader

PARENT & CARER WEEKLY BULLETIN

SIXTH FORM

Year 13 Parents Evening

Thank you for attending our virtual Parents' Evening on Thursday 22nd January. We hope you found the appointments useful, supportive, and informative as we move into these crucial final months of your child's education. Our next focus is the Year 13 Trial Exams that start Monday 9th March, and ensuring that students meet their coursework deadlines (further details to follow). If you have any further questions, or if there is anything we can do to support you or your child further, please do not hesitate to contact their form tutor or a member of the Post-16 team.

Year 12 Assessment Week – Monday 9th February

This is now only two weeks away and represents an important opportunity for students to demonstrate their knowledge, understanding, and progress in each of their subjects. These assessments are designed to:

- *Reflect students' current attainment against course expectations
- *Help teachers identify strengths and areas for development
- *Inform future teaching, support, and predicted grades
- *Prepare students for the demands of Year 13 and future examinations

Strong performance in Assessment Week is important, as it provides a clear indication of how well students are engaging with their courses and applying their learning under exam-style conditions.

Year 13 Leavers' Yearbook – Photo Submissions

An email was sent to Year 13 students earlier this week with details on how to sign up for the Year 13 Leavers' Yearbook and submit their photos. Students can upload their profile photo as well as many additional photos as they wish to be included in the extra pages of the yearbook. The deadline for submissions is Friday 23rd May. We encourage students to check their email and submit their photos as soon as possible to ensure inclusion.

Post-18 Apprenticeships – Information for Families

We would like to share some information about apprenticeships to help inform conversations at home for students who may be considering a post-18 apprenticeship after Year 13. As you may know, apprenticeships are paid job vacancies offered by employers, combined with additional education and training. This training might involve attending college one day a week or completing online learning modules alongside work. Apprenticeships can be found on many platforms, including individual employers' websites. There are also key apprenticeship search engines, including:



PARENT & CARER WEEKLY BULLETIN

- *Find an Apprenticeship (GOV.UK)
- *UCAS Apprenticeships (our recommended option)
- *Indeed.com (using the apprenticeship filter)
- Apprenticeships are available at different levels:
 - *Level 1–2: Equivalent to GCSEs
 - *Level 3 (Advanced Apprenticeship): Equivalent to A Levels
 - *Level 4–5 (Higher Apprenticeships): Between A Level and degree level
 - *Level 6 (Degree Apprenticeship): Degree-level, linked with a university
 - *Level 7–8: Master's/PhD level (requires completion of a Level 6 apprenticeship)

Students considering apprenticeships should be actively using search engines to explore current vacancies, paying close attention to application deadlines and start dates. Some apprenticeships are already being advertised with early deadlines for a September start. However, students should not be concerned if many opportunities appear to start soon; this usually means that the main recruitment period is around May and June for leavers securing roles after finishing Year 13. Apprenticeships are advertised all year round, and the more opportunities students apply for, the greater choice they will have when deciding their next steps after A Levels.

Attendance

As part of our attendance monitoring process and in line with our Attendance policy, when a student is marked absent from a lesson, parents/carers will receive a text informing them of this. Please can parents/carers follow this up with their child and make contact with either the attendance office or Sixth Form Team via:

attendance@pudseygrammar.co.uk
sixthform@pudseygrammar.co.uk

Thank you for your support.

Dates for 2026

Monday 9th February – Year 12 Assessment Week
Wednesday 11th February - Leeds Apprenticeship Fair
Friday 6th March - PGS Careers Fair
Monday 9th March – Year 13 Trial Exam Week
Thursday 26th March – Year 13 Exam Success Evening

Mrs Smith
Assistant Director of Sixth Form

Miss Robinson
Careers and Progression Manager

Miss Mathie
Attendance and Pastoral Support

Mrs Scott
Supervised Study Co-Ordinator