

**PARENT & CARER
WEEKLY BULLETIN**
Friday 30th January 2026

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

I would like to begin by sharing an important national update. The Department for Education has announced that schools will be moving towards a mobile phone free environment. We are reviewing this guidance and considering how it will be implemented in our school. Further details will be shared with parents and carers after the half-term break.

This week interviews continued for Year 11 students from other schools who are hoping to join us in Year 12. These interviews provided the opportunity to showcase the high-quality opportunities available within our Sixth Form.

Finally, I am pleased to report back on the Year 12 visit that took place this week. Fourteen Year 12 students took part in the Step Up programme's residential to the University of Oxford. During the visit students explored the city and experienced life as a university student, gaining a valuable insight into higher education. We are proud to be one of only two schools in Leeds able to offer this prestigious programme.

Mark McKelvie
Headteacher

GENERAL NOTICES

Philosophy Club

An exciting new extra-curricular opportunity will be starting after half term - Philosophy Club. This will be run by some of our A Level students and facilitated by RE staff on Thursdays after school in room 115. Initially this will be open to all year groups, but is especially aimed at anyone who loves to ask questions and 'think outside the box.' Should your child be interested, please encourage them to attend the first meeting on Thursday 26th February in 115.

Mrs Bennett
Teacher of RE

Year 7

After February half term there will be some upcoming changes to the Year 7 English groups. We have reviewed assessment data and classwork from Year 7 in English and these changes

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are designed to ensure that all students are receiving the most appropriate level of support and challenge in lessons, and to help them make the best possible progress in English. These changes will not affect the curriculum content being taught, but will allow teachers to better tailor lessons to meet individual needs.

Miss Brawley
Assistant Subject Leader of English (KS3)

Parents Evening

Thank you for everyone who has made appointments for Parents Evenings, if you haven't please do check as many teachers will still have times available. Please be aware that many teachers teach more than one class or will teach very large classes so there may be no appointment times available. You have the option of joining a waiting list where teachers will be in touch with a quick progress update for your child.

Progress Reports

You have now received all of your progress reports for your child and hopefully with the guidance you have understood the report. I wanted to stress how it is the first progress report we have had so it is perfectly normal to be working below at this stage as the target is the target for the end of the year. There will be an opportunity to discuss with teachers at Parents Evening.

Indoor Athletics

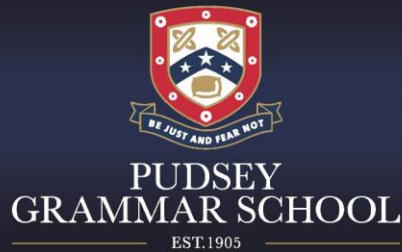
I wanted to highlight how well our year did with the Indoor Athletics competition this week. We hosted the whole of Leeds competition and both the boys and girls did brilliantly. The girls unfortunately didn't qualify for the next stage but it was an incredibly close competition and missed out by fine margins, they've done brilliantly to get to this stage. The boys were the overall winners of their competitions and have progressed to the West Yorkshire championships. The PE staff have talked about how it was a real team effort and we are very proud of the year.

Mr Lucas
Year 7 Director of Studies

Miss White
Year 7 Leader

YEAR 8

As we move through the term, we would like to remind families of the importance of high standards of behaviour and uniform. The vast majority of Year 8 students continue to meet our expectations well, and this consistency helps lessons start promptly and learning time to be maximised. We appreciate your continued support in ensuring students arrive at school in full uniform and fully equipped each day.



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Alongside this, we are pleased to share a positive opportunity involving a group of KS3 students, including some from Year 8. This week, they took part in the national Leaders Award competition titled "If you were an engineer, what would you do?". As part of the project, students are developing proposals to solve real-world problems.

On 28th January at 1pm, students attended a live session with Dawn Ohlson, President of the Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET). She spoke about why subjects such as maths and physics matter, how engineers gain recognition for their skills, and the different routes into engineering. Students also had the opportunity to ask questions to support their competition entries.

Well done to the students involved for their mature conduct and positive representation of the school.

Miss Norris
Acting Year 8 Director of Studies

Mrs Swithenbank
Year 8 Leader

YEAR 9

Thursday 12th March 2026 – Virtual Parent's Evening
Wednesday 18th March 2026 – Guided Choices Evening

Philosophy Club Announcement

In this week's assembly, Mrs H Bennett introduced our new Philosophy Club, which will take place on Thursdays. The first session will begin after half term and will be led by a group of our Year 12 students who are currently studying Philosophy at A Level.

If your child is interested in joining, further details will be shared during form time over the next couple of weeks.

Mrs Kaye
Year 9 Director of Studies

Mr Inman
Year 9 Leader

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YEAR 10

Year 10 students will be completing their next round of in-class assessments during lesson time from Monday.

Students have already been informed about these assessments by their subject teachers, and revision-based homework has been set on Arbor outlining the specific topics they need to revise. These assessments are an important opportunity for students to demonstrate their progress and will help inform their next progress report.

Below is a summary of the topics being assessed in each subject for your reference:

Maths

Number calculations (four operations), sequences, indices and roots, expanding and factorising, solving equations, simultaneous equations, ratio and fractions, percentages and interest, probability.

English

Language Paper 1:

- Question 1
- Question 2 – Language
- Question 3 – Structure
- Question 4 – Evaluation

Science

Communicable disease, particle model, electricity, organisation, chemical bonding

History

Paper 1 – Whitechapel (segment only)

Geography

Paper 1 – Rivers and Coasts

Art

Water colour painting – artist response to Noel Badges Pugh

Religious Education

Religion and Conflict

Media Studies

Creating a radio advert

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Business Studies

Marketing mix, sole trader, private limited company, partnerships, location, improving product, changing prices

Computing

Programming project

ICT

No assessment this cycle

Mandarin

Listening and reading assessment

French

My personal world; media and technology – listening and reading assessment

Spanish

Travel and tourism; my personal world – listening and reading assessment

Construction

Unit 1.1 The Sector and Unit 1.2 The Built Life Cycle

Hospitality and Catering

Content 1.3 – Health & Safety in Hospitality and Catering

PE (GCSE)

Paper 1 – Physical factors affecting performance

Product Design

Unit 1 – Materials theory

Performing Arts

No in-class assessment – completing PSA 1 work (deadline: 15 May)

Music

No in-class assessment – completing PSA 1 work (deadline: 15 May)

Health and Social Care

No in-class assessment – completing PSA 1 work (deadline: 15 May, submitted to exam board)

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Enterprise, Photography, Child Development

No assessment this cycle

We encourage students to revise regularly, attend lessons fully prepared, and ask their teachers if they are unsure about any of the content. Thank you for your continued support.

Miss Legg
Year 10 Director of Studies

Mrs Green
Year 10 Leader

YEAR 11

If your child has selected Pudsey Grammar Sixth Form as their 1st or 2nd choice for September, they will receive a conditional offer letter over the weekend. This letter outlines the subjects they have been offered.

Please note: Offers are conditional upon your child's continued progress, good conduct, and Year 11 exam results. Good attendance is essential for academic success and will also be considered when awarding Sixth Form places.

What to do next:

1. Check the offer carefully.
2. Confirm acceptance or decline using the Google Form link/QR code provided at the bottom of the offer letter.
3. The form will also ask additional questions, such as whether PGS is your child's 1st or 2nd choice.
4. There is an option to request a follow-up meeting to discuss subject choices.

Subject selection guidance:

Students who have listed four subjects will have their choices reviewed closer to results day. We generally recommend selecting three subjects. If your child has been offered one or two subjects only, this reflects the subjects they expressed interest in during their interview. They will need to choose additional subjects at a follow-up meeting to confirm their full offer.

Important reminders:

Students can change their subjects if needed.

Students can change PGS from 2nd choice to 1st choice if desired.

If your child has not received an offer letter and wishes to be considered for a place, please contact Mrs Smith (l.smith@pudseygrammar.co.uk).

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Key dates:

Monday 23rd February – Offer Letter Confirmation Deadline

Monday 22nd & Tuesday 23rd June – Year 12 Induction Event

Thursday 20th August – GCSE Results Day & Sixth Form Enrolment

Mrs Smith

Post 16 Director of Studies

We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our Year 11 students on the excellent effort they have shown during their trial examinations over the past two weeks. Students are demonstrating clear progress, and the commitment they have shown to their learning has given staff a genuine sense of pride.

Their approach reflects our school values of resilience and ambition, with many students rising to the challenge, persevering through a demanding period, and striving to achieve their best.

As we move forward, we would like to remind parents that revision should be ongoing and regular. Students are encouraged to continue revising after school, whether by staying for additional study sessions at school or working independently at home. Consistent revision will be key to sustaining this positive momentum.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. Please see the remaining key dates for Year 11.

✦ After School Interventions - 15.10pm – 15.45pm

Tuesdays – English

Wednesdays – Maths

Thursdays – Science

✦ English Walking Talking Mocks

X Band - 6th February

Y Band - 10th February

✦ Music PSA Exam

12th February

✦ *RESCHEDULED PARENTS EVENING*

12th February – 4.30pm – 6.15pm

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- 📅 Break for Spring half term - Friday 13th February
- 📅 Return to school - Monday 23rd February

✦ 6th Form Offer Confirmation Letter Deadline
Monday 23rd February

- ✦ Health & Social NEA - 9th - 11th February
- ✦ Food NEA - 24th - 25th February
- ✦ Drama Exam - 5th March
- ✦ Core Trial Exams - 16th March - 26th March

✦ *Year 11 Exam Success Evening* (parents/carers invited to school)
24th March – 5.00pm – 6.00pm

- 📅 Break for Easter Holidays - Thursday 2nd April (Bank holiday on Friday 3rd April)
- 📅 Return to school - 20th April

✦ English Walking Talking Mock
Y Band - 21st April
X Band - 24th April

✦ ***GCSE EXAMS*** (some smaller exams may be sooner)
Monday 4th May - Friday 19th June
Please avoid booking any holidays during this period, please wait until all exams have been completed and events below. If in any doubt, please contact me to check dates.

✦ Year 11 Leavers Assembly (final goodbyes in school)
Friday 19th June – 1.00pm – 3.30pm

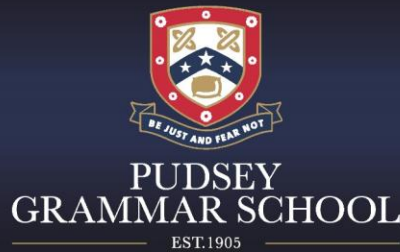
✦ Year 11 into Year 12 Induction Days - 22nd - 23rd June

✦ Year 11 Prom! - Thursday 2nd June

✦ GCSE Results Day & 6th Form Enrolment – Thursday 20th August, further details to follow

Mr Syed
Year 11 Director of Studies

Miss Exley
Year 11 Leader



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SIXTH FORM

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.

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

- Confirmation that you may be able to 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 & Progression Manager

Year 13 University Applications Assembly

This week's assembly was for Year 13 students who have applied to university. Information was shared on key areas to consider when selecting firm and insurance choices, as well as guidance on student accommodation and student finance. If students have any further questions about the application process over the coming months, they should speak to Mrs Smith or Miss Robinson.

Year 13 Leavers Hoodies

This year we are offering Leavers' Hoodies that are now available to purchase via the link below. These will be available to order until 10pm on Wednesday 25th March. Hoodies will be handed out to students during the Leavers Assembly to wear on inflatable days if they choose to. The hoodies are fully customisable and are an optional purchase to celebrate the end of the year.

<https://www.hoodiehut.co.uk/leavers-hoodies/pudsey-grammar-school-2026/>

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Year 13 Class of 2026 Yearbook

Additionally, the Class of 2026 Yearbook is now available to purchase via the link below and will be distributed to students on Results Day. These will be available to order from the link below until 10pm on Wednesday 25th March. If you/your child will not be available on Results Day, yearbooks can be collected from Main Reception from September 2026, alongside A-Level certificates. Please ensure your child has submitted their leavers photos via the Allyearbook link sent earlier this month to their school email.

<https://allyearbooks.co.uk/buy/24608>

Student Council

The Sixth Form Student Council is here to listen, discuss, and take action on student ideas and concerns. Get in touch with us at council@pudseygrammar.co.uk.

Coursework Deadlines

Information regarding coursework deadlines will be shared with students next week during form time. Deadlines are in place for both Year 12 and Year 13 subjects, and are designed to support effective time management and the completion of courses to the expected standard. Once this information has been published, students with any questions or concerns should speak to their subject teacher or form tutor in the first instance.

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