



**PARENT & CARER
WEEKLY BULLETIN**
Friday 27th February 2026

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

I wanted to take a moment to share some important information following the Government's publication of its schools' white paper, *Every Child Achieving and Thriving*. This sets out a significant vision for education in England, and I want to explain what it means for our school and your children.

A Broader, Richer Curriculum

The white paper places a strong emphasis on moving away from a narrow, test-focused approach to education. The Government wants every child to benefit from a curriculum that builds both knowledge and skills — one that fosters wellbeing and belonging alongside academic achievement. We welcome this ambition as it aligns closely with the values we already hold here.

Inclusion and SEND Reform

One of the most significant proposals involves reform of the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) system. The Government is consulting on replacing Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) with a new three-tier model of support: universal, targeted, and specialist. We are following this consultation closely and will keep you informed, as we know many of our families will have a keen interest in how these changes unfold.

Collaboration Between Schools

The white paper signals a move toward all state schools joining or forming multi-academy trusts, with the aim of embedding collaboration and sharing expertise across the system. There is no immediate requirement for schools to convert to an academy and this is a consultation so we will be following this aspect with interest. We are proud of the progress our school has made as a local authority maintained school and whilst we have a strong record of successful collaborations with various schools and academies over the years, I would be concerned about any school being forced against their will to join a multi-academy trust.

Wellbeing at the Heart of Education

Perhaps most encouragingly, the paper acknowledges that too many young people in the UK feel unhappy at school. The Government has committed to giving children a richer, more connected school experience — and we share that commitment entirely as is evidenced by our comprehensive and popular House competitions to name but one aspect. We will continue to keep you updated as these proposals develop. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Mark McKelvie
Headteacher



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GENERAL NOTICES

Attendance Calls/Main Office

The main office has noticed a large volume of attendance related calls coming through to main reception. Unfortunately, the main reception is unable to access attendance information and answer parent queries regarding attendance issues. The Attendance team have an option available on the phone system to speak to them direct. If they do not answer the call, there is a voicemail which is monitored regularly throughout the day. The Attendance team can also be contacted via email at attendance@pudseygrammar.co.uk or log attendance information via the Arbor app.

Miss Powell
Office Supervisor

Young Artists' Competition DEADLINE

The submission deadline for the Young Artists' Summer Show is fast approaching! You only have a few days left to submit an artwork/photograph/collage/sculpture/garment that you have made to have the chance to be exhibited at the Royal Academy of Art in London this summer. Please send a photograph of your work to Miss Chappell at a.chappell@pudseygrammar.co.uk with a title of the artwork and a short description by Wednesday 4th March to be entered.

Miss Chappell
Teacher of Art

Communicating with School

The most efficient way of contacting the school is by email. We aim to acknowledge emails as soon as possible and to respond in full by email, arranging a meeting or phone call within 48 hours.

If the matter is of an urgent nature, please do not hesitate to contact the main office.

Please refer to the diagram below where you will see that minor pastoral matters should be dealt with by the Form Tutor and more complex issues will be dealt with by the Year Leader. Subject queries should be referred to the classroom teacher and issues relating to more than one subject will be dealt with by the Director of Studies.

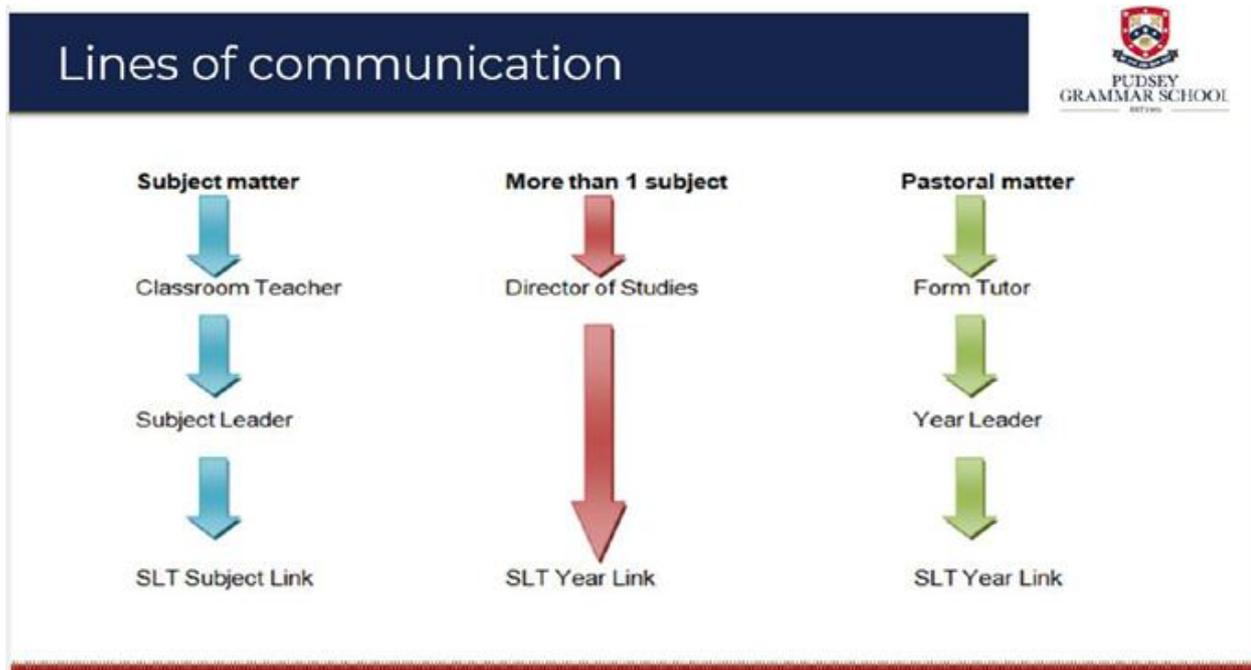
Staff emails can be found on the school website using the link - <https://www.pudseygrammar.co.uk/contact-us/key-contacts/>

To report a student absence please email attendance@pudseygrammar.co.uk or telephone 0113 3869122. Absences can also be recorded by using the Arbor app.



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The school's Home/School Communications Policy can be found by clicking on the link - <https://www.pudseygrammar.co.uk/key-information/school-policies/>



Ms Frost
PA to the Headteacher

Year 7

We hope that all of Year 7 had a great half term break and have come back feeling refreshed. We are now halfway through the school year and have, as always, been really impressed by the start for the majority of the year group. The standard of the year in terms of attitude, attendance and uniform has been brilliant, and we want to encourage this. Hopefully with the weather improving and the days getting longer we will see more and more Year 7 students accessing all the extra curricular activities the school has to offer.

Mr Lucas
Year 7 Director of Studies

Miss White
Year 7 Leader



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YEAR 8

Year 8 HPV Immunisations

The Schools Immunisations team will be visiting school on Wednesday 13th May 2026 to deliver the Year 8 Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) immunisations.

Parents/carers should have received an email earlier this week with a link to submit the form to give or withdraw consent.

Please see below the link to the letter for more detailed information.

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1Cp266-kaPZKzu9Nb2hXM1Z2i8u7wFcP3>

The HPV vaccination is part of the National Immunisation Programme and is offered in schools. The vaccine protects against 9 types of HPV related cancers and genital warts.

Click on the link below for the online submission form. You will need to use the unique school code EE108079 to complete the consent form as soon as possible.

<https://www.leedsimmunisations.co.uk/Forms/HPV>

Important: If you do not wish your child to receive the vaccinations, you still need to complete the "refusal section" on the form so that we understand your wishes. If we do not receive a consent or refusal form, your child may be given an opportunity to consent for themselves on the day after being assessed by a nurse as Gillick Competent to do so. Gillick competence is where a child is believed to have enough intelligence, competence and understanding to fully appreciate what's involved in their treatment.

Providing you enter a correct email address, you will receive email confirmation when your child has received their vaccination, including information and advice about common side effects your child may experience.

Thank you for your cooperation

Mrs Marsh
First Aid Lead

Year 8 had a fantastic day on Tuesday with Human Utopia , looking at "Who Am I?". Students reflected on identity, values, beliefs, and what shapes them as individuals. We are incredibly proud of how maturely and thoughtfully they approached these discussions. A number of students showed real courage in sharing their personal thoughts and feelings with the year group, demonstrating honesty, empathy, and respect for one another.



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Every student engaged brilliantly, listening carefully and contributing meaningfully. The supportive atmosphere they created together truly reflected the spirit of Human Utopia — understanding ourselves and valuing others.

Well done, Year 8!

Miss Norris
Acting Year 8 Director of Studies

Mrs Swithenbank
Year 8 Leader

YEAR 9

I hope your child had a lovely half term break. I'm pleased to share that the year group have made a fantastic start to Half Term 4.

Staff submitted all assessment data to the school system on Thursday 26th February, and reports will be sent out to you over the next couple of weeks.

Key Dates

Thursday 12th March – Virtual Parents' Evening
Further information on how to book appointments will follow shortly.

Wednesday 18th March – Guided Choices Evening (5.00pm–7.00pm)
I will be sending out a Google Form in the next couple of weeks. Please confirm your attendance via the form — this will help me decide whether one or two sittings of the presentations will be required.

If you have any questions, please feel free to get in touch.

Mrs Kaye
Year 9 Director of Studies

Mr Inman
Year 9 Leader

YEAR 10

We are excited to be running our annual Careers Week for Year 10, taking place next week. This is an important opportunity for students to explore future pathways, develop key employability skills and build confidence as they begin thinking about post-16 options.



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As part of National Careers Week, Year 10 will be participating in a number of opportunities. This is an important opportunity for students to explore future pathways, develop key employability skills and build confidence as they begin thinking about post-16 options.

Tuesday 3rd March - Individual Mock Interviews

This is a valuable experience that mirrors real college, apprenticeship and job interviews. In form time, students have been preparing responses to a range of interview-style questions, including:

- Can you tell me about a time you had to work as part of a team?
- How would your teachers describe you, in three words?
- Describe a difficult project you have worked on and how you overcame it.
- What is your best achievement to date?
- What is your greatest strength?
- What skills do you think you need to improve?
- How do you prioritise your work to make sure you meet all your deadlines?
- Describe a positive strategy you've found to cope with pressure at school.
- Tell me about a time that you had to meet a tight deadline.

We encourage you to ask your child these questions at home and support them in practicing clear, confident answers. Speaking their responses aloud will really help their confidence.

Students should attend in full school uniform and approach the day with a professional attitude.

Wednesday 4th March – Apprenticeship Guidance Workshop

Selected students will participate in an Apprenticeship Guidance Workshop, where they will learn more about apprenticeship pathways, entry requirements and the range of opportunities available locally and nationally. This session is particularly beneficial for students considering a vocational or work-based route after Year 11.

Friday 6th March – Careers Fair

All Year 10 students will attend the Careers Fair on Friday. This is a fantastic opportunity to meet employers and training providers. Students will be encouraged to ask questions, gather information and reflect on potential career pathways that interest them.

Miss Legg
Year 10 Director of Studies

Mrs Green
Year 10 Leader



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YEAR 11

Key Dates and Messages

****Year 11 Photos****

A reminder to students that Year 11 photos will take place on the morning of Wednesday 4th March. This will be taken with their original form tutors.

We are collecting some information to ensure that all students are catered for with appropriate meals after the leaving assembly and for prom. Please can you check that your child has completed the following, links to the Google form are available from their form tutors:

Burger Van/Prom Food Form (only if students have a dietary requirement)

Deadline: Friday 6th March

Yearbook Quotes Form

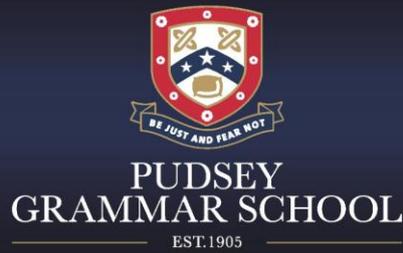
Deadline: ASAP - deadline already passed!

Leaver Hoodies/T Shirts

Samples of the leaver hoodies and t shirts are in the Floor 2 office if students wish to look at sizes

KEY DATES

- ✦ 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



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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 July
- ✦ 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

SIXTH FORM

Thank you to all students who attended the February half-term revision sessions. Your commitment and efforts are greatly appreciated, and we hope you found the sessions supportive and beneficial.

Year 13 Trial Exams - Friday 6th to Friday 13th March ****Reminder****

- Paper copies are available from the **P16 Office** and the **P16 Study Area**.
- An electronic copy has been added to **Arbor** and emailed to students.
- All information is also displayed outside the **P16 Office**.
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Students studying **History, Criminology, Psychology, GCSE English and GCSE Maths** must check which option group they are in to ensure they attend the correct exam slot. This information is displayed outside the P16 Office, and students can also confirm details with their subject teacher.

During exam week, **both Year 12 and Year 13** students will sit papers, including **Core Maths, GCSE English, GCSE Maths and GCSE Science**.

Year 13 Study Leave: Monday 9th March – Friday 13th March (students only attend timetabled exams or coursework sessions)

Friday 6th March: Normal school day for all students unless they are timetabled for an exam. **Year 12 students** sitting Core Maths, GCSE English, GCSE Maths and GCSE Science will **not** have study leave.



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Year 13 Celebration Events 2026

A letter has been sent out with details regarding the Year 13 celebration events this summer. The Pudsey Grammar School Sixth Form 2026 Awards Ceremony and prom event will take place at The Headingley Stadium on **Thursday 25th June 2026**.

Please see below for further details:

- **Venue:** The Headingley Cricket Stadium, St Michael's Lane, Headingley, LS6 3BU
- **Date:** Thursday 25th June 2026
- **Award Ceremony:** Arrival from 6.00pm for a 6.30pm start
- **Prom:** Ceremony to conclude at 7.30pm with movement to pitch side photography. Prom commencing at 8.00pm to conclude at midnight.

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Ticket Price - The price of the ticket is **£22.96** per student (this includes a complimentary drink, a meal and the party) and will be on sale via Parentmail. The deadline for payments is **Sunday 24th May 2026**.

***Optional* Leavers Hoodies** - 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.

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

***Optional* 2026 Yearbook** - Additionally, the Yearbook is now available to purchase via the link below.

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

Dates for 2026

Year 12

Friday 6th March - PGS Careers Fair
Wednesday 1st April – Year 12 Parents Evening (online)
w/c Monday 27th – Year 12 Trial Exam Week (Sports/Main Hall tbc)
Tuesday 7th July to Friday 10th - Year 12 Paris Trip
w/c 13th July – Year 12 Work Experience

Year 13

Friday 6th March - PGS Careers Fair
w/c Monday 9th March – Year 13 Trial Exam Week 2
Thursday 26th March – Year 13 Exam Success Evening
w/c Tuesday 5th May - Exam Season Commences
Thursday 25th June – Year 13 Awards Ceremony & Prom



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Thursday 13th August - A Level Results Day
Thursday 20th August - GCSE Results Day

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
