



**PARENT & CARER
WEEKLY BULLETIN**
Friday 6th March 2026

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

I am sure, like me, that you are fully aware of the highly addictive algorithms which power many of the social media apps available on mobile phones. Our policy has been in operation for nearly ten years and it endeavoured to create a pragmatic solution for students. The current policy is that if mobile phones are seen in classrooms or in the corridors they are confiscated and stored securely in our Main Office until parents or carers are able to come and collect the device. This has proved a successful deterrent against phone use at inappropriate times.

However, the world has moved on since 2017 when this policy was written and it is clear that the addictive nature of mobile phone apps is harmful not only to adults but particularly to children. In addition to this the Department for Education and Ofsted have made it clear that schools should become mobile-free areas. As a result, we will be introducing a new Mobile Phone policy in the final week of this term. This policy will involve phones being banned at social times and students will not be permitted to use them from when they enter the building until they leave the building. The only exceptions will be for students who have a medical condition that requires them to have constant access to their phone (students with diabetes who need to check their blood sugar levels) and some minor adjustments for students in our Sixth Form.

This policy is in the process of being developed and we will be providing students, staff and parents with the full details of this very shortly. Thank you in advance for your support in this initiative.

Mark McKelvie
Headteacher

GENERAL NOTICES

Positive Language

At Pudsey Grammar School, we are committed to maintaining a safe, respectful and inclusive environment for all students. Our Behaviour policy sets out clear expectations around the language students use in school, and it is important that all families understand how we promote a positive and respectful culture.



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Language Expectations

Students are expected to speak to staff and peers with respect at all times. This includes avoiding any language that could cause offence, upset or harm.

Responding to Inappropriate Language

When students use language that does not meet our expectations, staff will respond in line with the Behaviour policy. This includes issuing sanctions where needed to reinforce the importance of respectful communication.

Inappropriate language, such as general swearing, will be addressed promptly to remind students of the standards we expect in school.

Much more serious or discriminatory language will always be treated with greater seriousness. These incidents are passed to the pastoral team for investigation, and more significant consequences will follow in line with the Behaviour policy.

Our aim is to educate students about the impact of their words while ensuring our school remains a safe environment for everyone.

Thank you for your support

Mr McCroakam
Assistant Headteacher

Ramadan and Detentions

We know that a number of our students are currently taking part in the festival of Ramadan. We recognise that this is an important and meaningful period for many of our students and their families. We remain committed to supporting all students to feel safe, respected and included in school.

At the same time, our Behaviour policy sets clear and consistent expectations for every student. Detentions are an essential part of this system, and the duration of detentions applies to all circumstances.

As a non-faith school, we are committed to applying our policies fairly and consistently to all students, regardless of background. For this reason, we are not able to reduce or amend the length of any detention during Ramadan.

We also want to reassure families that we always provide 24-hours' notice for any detention. This ensures parents and carers have sufficient time to coordinate transport or collection from school after the detention has finished.



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We appreciate your support in reinforcing the importance of meeting school expectations and completing detentions as set. Working together helps maintain a calm, respectful and purposeful environment for all students.

Mr McCroakam
Assistant Headteacher

Philosophy Club

Philosophy Club is cancelled on Thursday 12th March due to Year 9 Parents' Evening.

Ms Bennett
Teacher of Philosophy

Nut Allergies

We would like to remind parents & carers that we have a number of students and staff in school who have a severe nut allergy. Nuts and products containing nuts should not be consumed in school.

Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

Mrs Marsh
Lead First Aid

Year 7

On Thursday we had World Book Day where students took part in a series of activities throughout the day to celebrate. They have also been given book tokens to purchase a book, and we hope the students use them to help develop a real love of reading. Reading is important to helping make progress at school and we want to encourage as many students as possible to develop this love and turn it into a habit.

Mr Lucas
Year 7 Director of Studies

Miss White
Year 7 Leader

YEAR 8

This week has been Careers Week, giving students the opportunity to explore a range of future pathways and learn more about the world of work.

On Thursday, Year 8 enjoyed an engaging STEM theatre performance, which brought science,



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technology, engineering and maths to life through an interactive show. The performance encouraged students to think about how STEM subjects link to real careers and future opportunities.

Today, students had the chance to browse the Careers Fair, where they met a range of employers, training providers and organisations. It was a great opportunity for them to ask questions, discover different career routes and begin thinking about their aspirations beyond school.

We are very grateful to all the visitors and organisations who gave their time to support our students during the event.

Miss Norris
Acting Year 8 Director of Studies

Mrs Swithenbank
Year 8 Leader

YEAR 9

D of E

The first cohort of students successfully completed the qualifying expedition. The second cohort are due to complete their expedition on 11th and 12th March. Those students taking part please meet in the car part at 8.30am where you will be met and provided with any equipment you have asked to borrow. Any questions please email me at s.swithenbank@pudseygrammar.co.uk.

Guided Choices Evening – Wednesday 18th March (5.00pm – 7.00pm)

The evening will consist of a presentation followed by an opportunity to speak with Subject Leaders. Please be aware that if you are unable to attend, all information will be made available on the school website. There will also be an assembly for students after the Guided Choices Evening to explain the pathway.

You will be sent a Google form by the end of next week. This will ask you to confirm your attendance, which will help me determine whether one or two presentations are required. I would like to make it clear that your child will not be expected to choose their options on the evening. This process will take place during school hours.

Mrs Kaye
Year 9 Director of Studies

Mr Inman
Year 9 Leader



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YEAR 10

Year 10 students have conducted themselves excellently throughout this week's careers activities. It has been a real pleasure to see the maturity, confidence and professionalism they have demonstrated.

Students took part in mock interviews, where they had the opportunity to practise key employability skills. They approached this experience with a very positive attitude and represented themselves extremely well. Students received instant feedback during the interviews, and further feedback will be shared with them by form tutors at a later date so they can continue to build on these valuable skills.

On Tuesday, many students also participated in an apprenticeship workshop, where they were introduced to the different opportunities available and were given guidance on how to apply for apprenticeship pathways in the future.

Today, all students attended our Careers Fair, where they had the opportunity to speak with a range of employers about potential future career paths. It was fantastic to see so many students engaging with the employers, asking thoughtful questions and showing genuine interest in their future options.

We are very proud of how Year 10 have represented both themselves and the school this week.

Miss Legg
Year 10 Director of Studies

Mrs Green
Year 10 Leader

YEAR 11

Well done to all of our Drama students who performed for the external moderator on Thursday. We received some lovely feedback, and the students were a credit to the department. Please join me in praising their efforts.

📖 REVISION

We continue to 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 as below:

English – Tuesday
Maths – Wednesday



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WEEKLY RITUALS

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.

 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 July

 GCSE Results Day & Sixth 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 13 Trial Exams - Friday 6th to Friday 13th March

A reminder that the Year 13 Trial Exams started today, Friday 6th March.

Students should have a paper copy highlighted with their exams and coursework sessions (exams are also included on Arbor).

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 should have also confirmed details with their subject teacher.

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

Year 12 students sitting Core Maths, GCSE English, GCSE Maths and GCSE Science will not have study leave.

As our students begin their trial exams, we wanted to offer some words of encouragement—and to thank you for the support you continue to provide at home. We are incredibly proud of the effort and determination our students have shown in the lead-up to this assessment period. Their focus, resilience, and commitment to their subjects have been clear to see, and it has been great to witness how hard they have been working both in lessons and during independent study.

These trial exams are an important opportunity for students to practice under real exam conditions, to build confidence, and to identify the areas where they can continue to develop. We know this can be a demanding week for them, but we also know how capable and prepared they are.

Please continue to encourage your child to take each day steadily, maintain healthy routines, and remember that these exams are a stepping stone—not a final destination. The most important thing is that they give their best and approach each paper with a positive mindset.

Communication

The best and most effective way to contact the Sixth Form Team is via our email address: sixthform@pudseygrammar.co.uk.

This inbox is monitored regularly throughout the day, ensuring that we can respond to your queries as promptly as possible. If you would like to speak to a member of the team regarding



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any aspect of your child's Sixth Form experience—whether related to attendance, Sixth Form applications, careers guidance, or academic progress—please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Dates for 2026

Year 12

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

w/c Monday 9th March – Year 13 Trial Exam Week

Thursday 26th March – Year 13 Exam Success Evening
w/c Tuesday 5th May - Exam Season Commences
Thursday 25th June – Year 13 Awards Ceremony & Prom
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