



**PARENT & CARER
WEEKLY BULLETIN**
Friday 11th September 2026

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

We have been extremely impressed at the attendance of students and the focus they are all displaying. As well as the current weekly 100% rewards stickers which students can exchange for prizes at breaktime, we are also starting a weekly prize draw in assemblies for all students who were in the previous week. We will be informing all parents via email when their child has had 100% attendance and the students will be informed by their Form Tutor.

Thank you once again for ensuring that your child attends school every day. It really is the single most important step that any parent or carer can take, whatever age the young person is, to significantly enhance their chances of success.

Please see Mr Tierney's message in this bulletin below for more information.

Mark McKelvie
Headteacher

GENERAL NOTICES

Attendance and Rewards

We continue to recognise and reward excellent attendance throughout the school. Every week is a fresh start – students who achieve 100% attendance for that week will earn a 100% Attendance Point. This means 100% is achievable for everyone each week, regardless of their attendance in previous weeks.

Attendance Points are given as stickers which students place in their planners. The sticker also shows the student's latest overall attendance and their attendance for the previous week, providing parents and carers with a regular update. Parents and carers can also keep up to date with their child's attendance at any time through the Arbor App.

Attendance Points accumulate throughout the year and can be exchanged for a range of prizes. Students can also choose to exchange their points for raffle tickets, giving them the chance to win a £20 voucher in our half-termly draws.

Every student who achieves 100% attendance during the week will also be automatically entered into a weekly Year Group prize draw, with winners announced in assemblies. Look out for an email from Pudsey Grammar School each week confirming when your child has achieved 100% attendance and has been entered into the draw.

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We will also recognise sustained excellent attendance, with additional prizes for students who achieve 97%+ attendance across each half term.

Every week is another opportunity to achieve 100%, earn a point and be rewarded for great attendance.

Mr Tierney
Deputy Headteacher

Requesting Mandarin Timetable Changes – Year 8 and 9

Please be aware that requests to change to a child's timetable regarding opting out of Mandarin should be made at the end of each term only. They will then be actioned to be effective for the start of the following term.

Mrs Maloney
Subject Leader of Mandarin

Invigilator Recruitment

We are recruiting for invigilators in school. If you are interested in this role or know someone who may be interested, please click on the link - <https://mynewterm.com/jobs/108079/EDV-2026-PGS-73258>

Mrs White
Exams Officer

Seasonal Flu Immunisations

The School's Immunisation team will be visiting Pudsey Grammar School on Tuesday 22nd September.

If you have not already done so, please complete the online form on the link below to confirm or withhold consent for your child. You should have received confirmation by email when you have completed the form.

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

The code for Pudsey Grammar School is **EE108079**.

The form will close at 3pm on 15th September 2026 to allow time to order the vaccines needed.

Mrs Marsh
First Aid Lead



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Let the House competitions begin!

We are excited to launch a fantastic programme of **House competitions** this half term, giving students plenty of opportunities to get involved, represent their House and, most importantly, have fun!

Throughout the coming weeks, students will be able to take part in a range of challenges and competitions, with **House points up for grabs**. Whether your child is sporty, creative, academically minded or simply enjoys getting involved, there will be opportunities for everyone to contribute to their House's success.

Event	Year Group	Date	Time	Location
Dodgeball	7 & 8	Wednesday 23 rd September	3.00pm- 4.00pm	Sports Hall
Dodgeball	9 – 13	Thursday 24 th September	3.00pm- 4.00pm	Sports Hall
Table Tennis	9 - 13	Wednesday 30 th September	3.00pm- 4.00pm	Sports Hall
Poetry Word Battle	7 - 13	Wednesday 7 th October	3.00pm- 4.00pm	Floor 1
Gaming	7 - 13	Wednesday 14 th October	3.00pm- 4.00pm	Room 214
Minute to Win It	7 – 13	Wednesday 21 st October	3.00pm- 4.00pm	Sports Hall

In addition, every Tuesday we will be running a football and netball league from 3.00pm – 4.00pm on the school fields.

We are looking forward to seeing lots of enthusiasm, teamwork and healthy competition as our Houses battle it out on the road to becoming **House Champions**!

Keep an eye on the bulletin for details of the competitions taking place each week — and remember, **every point counts**!

Mr Conway
House Lead

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Year 7

Mandarin Excellence Programme

At Pudsey Grammar School we have successfully participated in the prestigious Mandarin Excellence Programme since 2019 and this has enabled a small cohort of our young people to enjoy Mandarin lessons at school, experience Chinese culture first hand and to access a GCSE in Mandarin Chinese when they reach Year 11.

In the next few weeks, this programme will be promoted to students during form time and assemblies. If you would like to find out more or are interested in your child being considered for this programme, the information from the British Council programme is very informative. <https://www.britishcouncil.org/school-resources/languages/mandarin-excellence-programme>.

Mrs Maloney
Subject Leader of MFL

Mrs Yin-Heinberg
Teacher of Mandarin

Year 7 are continuing to make a great start to their time at Pudsey Grammar School. Their effort and commitment have been really positive, and we are particularly pleased with how smartly they are wearing their uniform and presenting themselves each day. Their effort and engagement in lessons has also been really encouraging, with students settling well into the routines and expectations of secondary school.

We are looking forward to meeting parents and carers on Wednesday 16th September for our Year 7 Information Evening. This will be a valuable opportunity to share important information about your child's transition into secondary school and answer any questions you may have.

Please can you confirm your attendance. As a reminder, both students and their parents/carers are invited to attend the evening.

We understand that some parents may not have received the letter for this event. Please do still attend between 5.00pm–6.00pm

We look forward to seeing you all there!

Mrs Morrell
Year 7 Director of Studies

Miss Exley
Year 7 Leader

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YEAR 8

We would like to congratulate Year 8 students on making such a fantastic start to the new school year. They have settled back in really well and are already showing enthusiasm for the new school year.

We would also like to encourage all students to make the most of the opportunities available beyond the classroom coming up. House competitions and extra-curricular activities are a fantastic way to try something new, develop new skills, make friends and really make use of everything school has to offer. Please see General Notices for information on this half term's House competitions.

Mr Lucas
Year 8 Director of Studies

Miss Birdsall
Year 8 Leader

YEAR 9

It has been another successful week for our Year 9 students, and it has been fantastic to see them continuing to settle into the routines and expectations of the new school year. We are really pleased with the positive start they have made and the effort they are putting into their learning.

Attendance

A reminder of the importance of regular attendance. Every day in school matters, and good attendance gives students the best possible opportunity to make progress and keep up with their learning. Please continue to support your child in attending school every day and arriving on time.

Uniform Standards

Please continue to support us by ensuring that students arrive at school in the correct uniform each day. Students should be wearing the full school uniform, with jewellery, make-up and hairstyles kept within our school expectations. Please also ensure that students bring a suitable school bag and have their full equipment ready for every lesson.

Mrs Mitchell
Year 9 Director of Studies

Mrs Swithenbank
Year 9 Leader

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YEAR 10

I would like to take a moment to congratulate our Year 10 students on the excellent start they have made to the new academic year. I have been really pleased to see how settled, focused and purposeful students have been in lessons, and I am also receiving very positive feedback from teachers across the year group.

It is particularly encouraging to hear that students are approaching their learning with a mature attitude and are making the most of the opportunities in front of them. The routines and expectations of Year 10 can take some time to establish, but our students have made a very positive start and are showing that they are ready to rise to the challenges ahead.

A strong start provides an excellent foundation for the year, and I hope students can maintain this positive approach as the term progresses. Well done, Year 10 — keep up the great work!

The Power of Small Improvements

This week, our Year 10 students explored an idea from James Clear's book, *Atomic Habits*: ****small, consistent improvements can lead to significant change over time****.

We encouraged students to consider what it might mean to be 1% better in each lesson. This doesn't mean being perfect; rather, it might mean concentrating a little more carefully, asking a question, acting on feedback, or putting a little more effort into a piece of work.

The message is simple: progress is often the result of small actions repeated consistently. We hope our students will apply this mindset not only to their learning, but also to the habits and choices they make more broadly.

Parents can help reinforce this at home by asking a simple question: "What could you do 1% better tomorrow?"

Sometimes, small steps really do lead to big changes.

Mr Syed
Year 10 Director of Studies

Miss Mathie
Year 10 Leader

YEAR 11

Year 11 is an important year and the small things students do every day will make a real difference to their success. Good attendance, punctuality, behaviour and organisation are all key to ensuring students make the most of their learning time.

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Blackpool Rewards Trip – 12th October (Payment on Parentmail opens soon)

We would like to remind parents and students that the Blackpool rewards trip is approaching and the payment will be open on Parentmail very shortly! Students must meet the following criteria in order to be eligible:

- No suspensions
- At least 92% attendance
- No more than 7 late morning marks
- No more than 7 removals
- No other serious behaviour incidents

Please remember that 92% attendance equates to no more than 3 days off school over the period leading up to the trip. Every day in school really does count, particularly during Year 11 when students are working towards their GCSEs.

We will continue to monitor the criteria and communicate with students about their individual progress.

Miss Legg
Year 11 Director of Studies

Mrs Green
Year 11 Leader

SIXTH FORM

A Big Thank You!

We would like to thank all our students and parents/carers for their patience and understanding over the past couple of weeks while we have been making a few timetable changes and adding additional study sessions.

As we move forward, if there are any issues or concerns regarding a student's timetable, please ask the student to come and speak to a member of the P16 Team as soon as possible. We will always do our best to resolve any issues quickly.

Likewise, if a student has a known absence and is going to miss a lesson, please ensure they speak to a member of the P16 Team as soon as possible. If a student unexpectedly misses a lesson, they should also come and speak to us as soon as they return so that we can resolve any attendance or timetable issues.

Thank you for your continued support as we settle into the new academic year.

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Year 12 Parent Information Evening – Thursday 17th September

We look forward to welcoming our new Year 12 parents/carers to our Year 12 Parent Information Evening on Thursday 17th September at 5.00pm.

Information regarding the evening has already been sent out. We would like all parents/carers to attend, and students are also encouraged to attend where possible.

The evening will provide important information about Sixth Form and will also give you the opportunity to meet your child's form tutor. Form tutors are the principal point of contact for discussions around learning, progress and next steps throughout the two years of Sixth Form.

Evening timetable

4.45pm – Arrival and light refreshments

5.00pm – Short presentation in the Main Hall

5.30pm – Short presentation with your child's form tutor

5.50pm – End of the evening

Please confirm your attendance by booking tickets using the link provided in the information sent to you.

Year 13 UCAS and Next Steps

Our Year 13 students are now fully engaged in planning their next steps beyond Sixth Form.

Students are currently:

Working on their personal statements

Planning their P18 options

Completing and reviewing their UCAS applications

Researching universities, courses and alternative Post 18 pathways

Preparing for the key UCAS deadlines

Important UCAS Deadline dates 2027 entry

★ 15th October 2026 - Deadline for applications to Oxford or Cambridge, and for most courses in medicine, veterinary medicine/science and dentistry.

★ Our Sixth Form deadline – 4th December 2026

This is our internal deadline for competitive applications.

We strongly encourage students to submit competitive applications by this date. Applications submitted at this point will be processed in good time and students can begin receiving offers. Students who leave their application until the official January deadline may have to wait longer to receive offers.



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www.pudseygrammar.co.uk

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★ 13th January 2027

Deadline for the majority of university courses for 2027 entry.

Mrs Smith
Assistant Director of Sixth Form

Miss Robinson
Careers and Progression Manager

Miss White
Attendance and Pastoral Support

Mrs Scott
Supervised Study Co-Ordinator
