

**PARENT & CARER
WEEKLY BULLETIN**
Friday 25th September 2026

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

The academic year is progressing well and I have been impressed with the vast majority of students - attendance continues to be good which is the key determining factor in students' success. Thank you once again for your support in this key area.

We are welcoming the NHS Blood Donation Service into the school next Friday when we will become a donor centre for the town. There are still places available next Friday afternoon if you wish to donate blood. Thank you in advance if you do.

Mark McKelvie
Headteacher

GENERAL NOTICES

Positive Recognition in our Community

Last week we asked parents and carers to let us know about achievements of their children outside the school building. It has been a real privilege to read about the fantastic things our young people are doing and the achievements they have made. In particular to hear so many stories of young people exhibiting our values of Respect, Compassion, Ambition, Integrity and Resilience. Below is a snapshot of some of last week's achievements we wanted to share:

Izzy - Year 12 - Ambition

A huge congratulations to Izzy and her Under16s Girls Rugby League team who won the National Premier League grand final last week. Izzy has also secured a spot in the academy for a Super League club.

Charlie - Year 11 - Compassion and Respect

Charlie volunteered as part of the Heritage Open Days - Greenside Tunnel opening. Spending a whole weekend to help guide and welcome over 1300 visitors to the tunnel.

Addison - Year 9 - Ambition and Resilience

Addison shows outstanding resilience each week dedicating her time to swimming. Addison swims at a national level, spending much of the summer competing in national level competitions, against the best swimmers in the country.



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Theo - Year 9 – Ambition

Well done to Theo for winning his first regional Tennis tournament over the summer and qualifying for some of the largest Tennis tournaments in the country. Well done in particular for reaching the quarter finals of the Yorkshire Championships.

Theo - Year 8 – Resilience

Well done to Theo in his achievements swimming for the City of Bradford junior development squad. We wish him all the best as he competes in the Yorkshire Championships this October.

Elliot - Year 8 – Ambition

Congratulations to Elliot on winning the "If you were an engineer what would you do?" award. We look forward to hear more creative ideas in the future.

Corey - Year 7 – Respect

Well done to Corey for his achievements playing for his football team last weekend. Corey was noted widely for his respect and performance on the pitch, winning multiple awards from coaches, players and parents, and grabbing a brace of goals in the process.

Please continue to let us know your positive news via the link below:

<https://forms.gle/vzt5iusArwVjpojC9>

Pudsey Grammar School Debating Society

Got an opinion? Love a good argument? Want to speak with confidence?

Come along to Debating Society and put your ideas to the test!



Every Tuesday



Starting 29th September



15.05pm



Room 211

Competitions

Get involved in three exciting debating competitions throughout the year:

- November 2026 at the Royal Armouries in association with The Leeds Salon.
- February 2027 interschools debate venue TBC
- May - Final of the interschools competition and an opportunity to attend UKREiif conference.
- Throughout the year we shall also host public speaking competitions in association with the ESU.



PUDSEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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Every Year Group Welcome!

Whether you're a beginner or an experienced debater, there's a place for you and we would love to hear what you have to say.

See you in Room 211!

Mr Connor
Teacher of English

Extra-Curricular Activities – week commencing 28th September 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Book Club 3:00 - 4:00pm Room: Library Staff: Miss Marwood All Year Groups	Football and Netball House Competitions 3:00pm - 4:00pm School Field Staff: PE staff All Year Groups	Strategy Club 3:00pm - 4:30pm Room: 213 Staff: Mr Pugh & Miss Ingle All Year Groups	Japanese Club 3:00pm - 4:30pm Room 011 Staff Mr Pugh & Miss Hornsby All Year Groups	
School Band 3:10pm - 4:00pm Room: 252 Staff: Miss O'Gorman All Year Groups	Art Club 3:00pm - 4:00pm Room: 031/033 Staff: Mrs Lewis Years 9-13	Art Club 3:00pm - 4:00pm Room: 031/033 Staff: Mrs Newby Years 9-13	Art Club 3:00pm - 4:00pm Room: 031/033 Staff: Miss Chappell Years 9-13	
	History Club 3:10pm - 4:00pm Room: 108 Staff: Mr Alderson All Year Groups	Homework Club 3:00 - 4:00pm Room: Library Staff: Miss Marwood All Year Groups	Philosophy Club 3:00pm - 4:00pm Room: 115 Staff: Ms Bennett After Half term	
	Homework Club 3:00 - 4:00pm Room: Library Staff: Miss Marwood All Year Groups	Photography Club 3:00pm - 4:00pm Room: 035 Staff: Mr Baxter Year 9 - 13	STEM Club 3:00pm - 4:15pm Room: 006 Staff: Miss Ingle Key Stage 3 only	
	Drama Club 3:10pm - 4:00pm Room: Drama Studio Staff: Miss Turner Key Stage 3 only		Photography Club 3:00pm - 4:00pm Room: 035 Staff: Mr Baxter Year 9 - 13	
	Photography Club 3:00pm - 4:00pm Room: 035 Staff: Mr Baxter Year 9 - 13			
	Debating Club 3:00pm - 4:00pm Room: 211 Staff: Mr Connor All Year Groups			
	Design Technology Club 3:00pm - 4:00pm Room 037 Staff: Miss Hepworth-Smith Key Stage 3 Starting after half term			

PGS School Production 2026/27

Within the Performing Arts team, a key highlight of our year is always the PGS School Production. We love working with students across all year groups on this fantastic event that is truly a showcase of the amazing talent we have within school.

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Students of all ability levels come along to be part of this wonderful experience, making friends across year groups, growing in confidence and making memories that will last beyond their school days.

We are therefore delighted to be able to announce that this year's musical has been decided.
The PGS School Production for 2026/27 is MAMMA MIA!!!!

Auditions for the musical will take place Tuesday 29th September in the Drama Studio (230) 3.00pm-5.00pm. Callbacks will take place on Thursday 1st October in the Drama Studio 3.00pm-4.30pm.

Following the auditions, rehearsals will take place Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday, depending on the role students have been given. More information relating to this will be given following the posting of the roles.

All students are welcome to attend the auditions and do not need to prepare anything specific in advance. However, if you are interested in a main role within the show, please come having prepared a verse and chorus from either 'The Winner Takes it all' or 'Knowing me, knowing you'. Musical accompaniment can be found on Youtube - please make sure if the karaoke version.

If you have any questions about anything related to the show or the auditions, please come and see either Miss O'Gorman (l.ogorman@pudseygrammar.co.uk), Miss Boshier (e.boshier@pudseygrammar.co.uk) or Miss Turner (m.turner@pudseygrammar.co.uk), or you can also email one of us.

We are really excited to get started on rehearsals for the show and look forward to seeing lots of students on Tuesday.

Miss O'Gorman
Subject Leader of Music

Minor Illnesses and Attendance Expectations

As we move into the season where coughs, colds, and other minor illnesses are common, we'd like to remind parents and carers of the importance of regular school attendance.

Children are expected to attend school even if they have mild symptoms such as a cough, cold, runny or blocked nose, sore throat, sneezing, or a mild raised temperature. If they are genuinely too unwell to attend school, we will contact home.

If you are unsure, your local pharmacy can help with symptoms including:

- a cough

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- colds: runny or blocked nose
- sore throat
- sneezing
- mild raised temperature / fever
- aches and pains
- congestion

Under the Pharmacy First scheme, pharmacists can also treat or prescribe for conditions such as:

- earache (1-17 years)
- sore throat (5 years and over)
- sinusitis (12 years and over)
- impetigo, infected insect bites, and shingles

Absences should only be reported if your child is not well enough to attend school. You can notify us of an absence in one of the following ways:

Via the Arbor app

By calling the school office on 0113 386 9122

Thank you for your continued support in ensuring your child's education is not disrupted.

Keeping Parents Informed About Attendance – A Star Attendance

Please click on the link below to find out more information on the tool we use for our attendance communication with you, A Star Attendance. The platform is used for **positive communication** and to contact families when we have concerns.

https://drive.google.com/open?id=1_quT_OOAYyBbV_Gm4_u8c8tCBldgOBCZ

Attendance Team

Year 7

We are pleased to confirm that the letters regarding our upcoming PGL trip have now been sent home.

If your child would like to take part, we strongly encourage you to secure their place as soon as possible. Places are booking up quickly, and we would not want your child to miss out if the trip reaches capacity.

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Please read the information in the letter carefully and complete the booking and payment arrangements by the deadline provided.

We also appreciate that parents and carers need to contact school by email from time to time. To help staff manage enquiries effectively alongside their teaching and other responsibilities, please allow up to 48 hours for a response. Staff will aim to respond as soon as possible, but a response may take up to 48 hours. We kindly ask that parents allow this time before sending a follow-up email.

For matters that are urgent or require an immediate response, please use the school's usual telephone or office contact arrangements.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding.

Mrs Morrell
Year 7 Director of Studies

Miss Exley
Year 7 Leader

YEAR 8

We are delighted at how impressively our Year 8 students have settled back into school life. They have hit the ground running, demonstrating excellent focus, positive attitudes, and high standards in both their work and behaviour across all subjects. We have had some excellent results with the school football team and I would like to also mention the positive awareness form Mr Sammons sent out to help make us aware of students' achievements so we can praise them in school.

To help our students maintain this brilliant momentum and get the absolute most out of their time at school, we strongly encourage them to dive into our extra-curricular activities. We have a fantastic range of school clubs running throughout the week, along with exciting House competitions coming up. Please see the schedule of extra-curricular activities in the General Notices section for the coming week.

Mr Lucas
Year 8 Director of Studies

Miss Birdsall
Year 8 Leader

YEAR 9

It has been another really positive week for Year 9, and it has been fantastic to see the year group continuing to settle into this academic year. Students have been working hard in lessons, and we have been pleased with their positive attitudes and engagement.

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We would like to remind students of the importance of excellent attendance. Being in school every day gives students the best opportunity to make progress, stay on top of their learning and enjoy all the opportunities school has to offer. We are also continuing to recognise students who achieve 100% attendance each week through our weekly attendance rewards incentive, so we hope this provides some extra motivation for students to attend every day.

A big well done to Year 9 for the positive uniform standards we have seen this week. Students have been looking smart and arriving at school ready to learn. Please continue to support us by ensuring students come to school in the correct uniform each day, with a suitable school bag and all the equipment they need.

Mrs Mitchell
Year 9 Director of Studies

Mrs Swithenbank
Year 9 Leader

YEAR 10

As Year 10 progresses, good attendance is more important than ever. Every lesson provides an opportunity to learn, practise and build confidence, so please encourage your child to attend regularly and make the most of every day. We also encourage parents and carers to talk with students about the courses they are studying and the coursework they have coming up for vocational options such as Media and IT. Challenge your child to find out when their coursework is due and what they need to do to complete it successfully. Parents can also contact form tutors if they would like further information.

The first round of Year 10 assessments will take place during the week commencing 19th October and will be classroom based. Students can start preparing now by finding out what topics will be assessed early and creating a simple revision plan. A regular routine of homework and revision, even 20–30 minutes at a time, is much more effective than last-minute cramming.

Simple ways to revise effectively

- ✦ Plan ahead: Create a simple weekly revision timetable.
- ✦ Test yourself: Close your notes and write down what you remember.
- ✦ Use flashcards: Question on one side, answer on the other.
- ✦ Practise questions: Complete questions and check your answers carefully.
- ✦ Teach someone: Explain a topic aloud as if you are the teacher.
- ✦ Revisit regularly: Come back to topics several times rather than revising them once.
- ✦ Focus on gaps: Spend extra time on topics you find difficult.
- ✦ Remove distractions: Put phones away and make revision time count.

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Small, regular steps now will help students feel prepared, confident and ready for their assessments in October.

Mr Syed
Year 10 Director of Studies

Miss Mathie
Year 10 Leader

YEAR 11

It has been great to see so many of our Year 11 students making a conscious effort to meet the criteria for the Blackpool Rewards trip. We are really pleased with the positive attitude and commitment many students are showing towards earning their place.

The Blackpool Rewards trip will take place on Monday 12th October. Students attending should arrive at school promptly at 8.30am so that we can complete registration and board the coaches.

Payment for the trip is open on ParentMail. If you experience any administrative issues when logging in or making payment, please let us know and we will be happy to help.

As a reminder, the criteria for attending the trip are:

- No suspensions
- 92% or above attendance (no more than 3 days absent)
- No more than 7 late marks
- No more than 7 removals

If your child does not wish to attend the Blackpool trip, a collapsed timetable will operate across the school day, so they will still be expected to attend school.

November Trial Exams

We are also beginning to look ahead to the first round of Year 11 trial exams. These will take place across 9th–23rd November in the Sports Hall and will include:

- Maths
- English
- Science
- History
- Geography
- RE
- Mandarin
- French
- Spanish

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The first exam will be Mandarin on Monday 9th November, with exams continuing across the following two weeks. A more detailed timetable with the topics will be shared separately.

Miss Legg
Year 11 Director of Studies

Mrs Green
Year 11 Leader

SIXTH FORM

Degree Apprenticeships

Sophie Craven from the University of Huddersfield delivered a talk and hands-on workshop around degree apprenticeships to Year 12 and Year 13 on Monday this week. We were impressed by the high attendance and engagement from our learners. They learnt about what degree apprenticeships are, how they differ from university, where to find them and how to secure one.

We will continue to run similar career events throughout the year for Post 16 learners to engage with. Students can sign up to events on the Career Classrooms and emails home are sent in advance of every event so that parents are aware and can encourage engagement.

Miss Robinson - Careers & Progression Manager

NHS Blood Donations - Friday 2nd October at Pudsey Grammar School

Bookings can be made on the NHS Give Blood App (Over 18's).

Giving blood is a simple way to make a huge difference. One blood donation can help save up to three lives, supporting patients who need blood for emergencies, operations, cancer treatment and other serious illnesses. Blood cannot be manufactured and can only come from generous donors, so hospitals rely on people choosing to give. Around an hour of your time could make a life-changing difference to someone when they need it most.

Year 12 Students - Paris & New Residentials

We are pleased to offer students the opportunity to take part in our exciting New York and Paris trips. Letters have gone out today with details of both trips.

Deposits must be paid via ParentMail by Sunday 11th October 2026.

Payments will open on Friday 2nd October at 7.00pm.

New York: £250 non-refundable deposit/Paris: £75 non-refundable deposit.



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There are 32 places available on each trip, allocated on a first come, first served basis. Once places are filled, parents/carers will have the option to add their child to a waiting list.

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
