

**PARENT & CARER  
WEEKLY BULLETIN**  
Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2026

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## HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

We were absolutely delighted to welcome the NHS Blood Donation team into the school today. There are 108 donors who are generously giving blood today both from the school (including me), across the town and the wider area. I am so grateful to everyone in our school and the NHS who has made this possible today. I would like to say a special thank you to everyone who has donated today.

If it wasn't for my late wife receiving several transformative donations in her final years, I would not have begun to donate blood and we would not have embarked on making the school a blood donation centre for the town. I would like to dedicate this initiative to her. For more information about Anne's work and contribution to science, her Royal Society biography can be found here: [Anne Neville. 21 March 1970—2 July 2022 | Biographical Memoirs of Fellows of the Royal Society | The Royal Society](#)

**Mark McKelvie**  
Headteacher

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## GENERAL NOTICES

### School Uniform Update

As part of our ongoing work to simplify and clarify our uniform expectations, we would like to remind families about the compulsory and optional elements of the Pudsey Grammar School uniform.

The following four branded items are compulsory:

- Navy blue blazer with the school logo.
- Navy blue and white striped school tie with crest clip.
- Pudsey Grammar School Indoor Navy Sports Polo Top.
- Either the Pudsey Grammar School Navy Sports Hoodie or Rugby Top.

We would also like to clarify expectations regarding school jumpers.

The school-branded navy V-neck jumper remains an approved uniform item and can continue to be purchased and worn by students. In line with the new government guidance on school uniform that came into effect from the start of this academic year, families also have the option of purchasing a plain, non-branded navy V-neck jumper in a traditional school-knit or wool-look fabric (e.g. acrylic/cotton/nylon blend) as an alternative.

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Please click on the link to view a visual of the approved jumper –

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1la873YzvC0Zf7A9PyITrpABmhQ4vKfq95gVQzINrXHk/edit?tab=t.0>

Any non-branded jumper must be:

Plain navy blue.

Free from logos, writing or stripes.

V-neck in style and not round-necked in appearance.

Traditional school-knit or wool-look fabric (e.g. acrylic/cotton/nylon blend).

This change provides families with greater flexibility and choice while ensuring students continue to present a smart and consistent appearance in line with our uniform expectations.

Please note that the uniform section of the school website will be updated in due course to reflect these changes. In the meantime, the guidance outlined above should be followed as it reflects our updated uniform requirements and aligns with the latest government guidance on school uniform.

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1la873YzvC0Zf7A9PyITrpABmhQ4vKfq95gVQzINrXHk>

Thank you for your continued support.

Mr McCroakam  
Assistant Headteacher

### **Positive News**

We love to hear what your young person has been doing in the community, so we can share and celebrate their success.

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

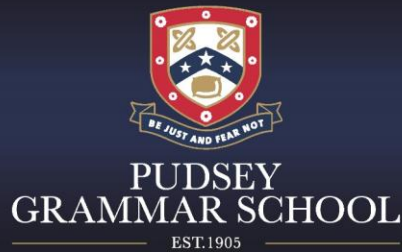
<https://forms.gle/vzt5iusArwVjpojC9>

Mr Sammons  
Assistant Headteacher

### **Requesting Mandarin Timetable Changes – Year 8 and 9**

As communicated in the Parent & Carer Bulletin on 11<sup>th</sup> September, 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 MFL



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### Punctuality Reminder

A reminder that all students are expected to be in their form room by 8.30am. The school gates open at 8.20am (8.00am for Breakfast Club).

Students arriving after 8.30am must sign in at Reception and may receive a sanction for lateness. Please help your child avoid this by ensuring they allow plenty of time to travel to school.

Traffic around school can be busy in the mornings, with local roadworks potentially causing additional delays. This applies whether your child travels by car, public transport or on foot. Please encourage your child to leave home in good time. Regular lateness can also have a negative impact on their overall attendance.

Thank you for your support.

Attendance Team

### Make Every Day Count at Pudsey Grammar School!

Attend every day for a full week = 1 Attendance Point

Receive a sticker for your planner

Spend points at Thursday break or save them towards a bigger reward!

What can you win?

- Confectionary
- Raffle tickets to win a voucher
- Mystery prizes
- ...and more!

Parents & Carers - we need your support!

Please encourage your child to attend school every day wherever possible. Regular attendance helps students learn, make progress and take part fully in school life.

One week. One point. One step towards a reward!

Let's make every day count!

Attendance Team



# PUDSEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

EST.1905

## PARENT & CARER WEEKLY BULLETIN

### EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Week Commencing 5<sup>th</sup> October 2026 (Week 2)

| Monday                                                                                       | Tuesday                                                                                                                               | Wednesday                                                                                                    | Thursday                                                                                              | Friday |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| <b>Book Club</b><br>3:00 - 4:00pm<br>Room: Library<br>Staff: Miss Marwood<br>All Year Groups | <b>Football and Netball House Competitions</b><br>3:00pm - 4:00pm<br>School Field<br>Staff: PE staff<br>All Year Groups               | <b>Strategy Club</b><br>3:00pm - 4:30pm<br>Room: Main Hall<br>Staff: Mr Pugh & Miss Ingle<br>All Year Groups | <b>Cyber Trailblazers</b><br>3:00pm - 4:00pm<br>Room 011<br>Staff: Mr Pugh<br>All Year Groups         |        |
| <b>School Band</b><br>3:10pm - 4:00pm<br>Room: 232<br>Staff: Miss O'Gorman<br>All Year       | <b>Art Club</b><br>3:00pm - 4:00pm<br>Room: 031/033<br>Staff: Mrs Lewis<br>Years 9-13                                                 | <b>Art Club</b><br>3:00pm - 4:00pm<br>Room: 031/033<br>Staff: Mrs Newby<br>Years 9-13                        | <b>Art Club</b><br>3:00pm - 4:00pm<br>Room: 031/033<br>Staff: Miss Chappell<br>Years 9-13             |        |
|                                                                                              | <b>Drama Club</b><br>3:10pm - 4:00pm<br>Room: Drama Studio<br>Staff: Miss Turner<br>KS3 Only                                          | <b>Homework Club</b><br>3:00 - 4:00pm<br>Room: Library<br>Staff: Miss Marwood<br>All Year groups             | <b>Philosophy Club</b><br>3:00pm - 4:00pm<br>Room: 115<br>Staff: Ms Bennett<br>Starts after Half Term |        |
|                                                                                              | <b>Homework Club</b><br>3:00 - 4:00pm<br>Room: Library<br>Staff: Miss Marwood<br>All Year Groups                                      | <b>Photography Club</b><br>3:00pm - 4:00pm<br>Room: 035<br>Staff: Mr Baxter<br>Year 9 - 13                   | <b>Dutch Club</b><br>3:00pm - 4:00pm<br>Room 207<br>Staff: Miss Hornsby<br>All Year Groups            |        |
|                                                                                              | <b>Photography Club</b><br>3:00pm - 4:00pm<br>Room: 035<br>Staff: Mr Baxter<br>Year 9 - 13                                            |                                                                                                              | <b>Photography Club</b><br>3:00pm - 4:00pm<br>Room: 035<br>Staff: Mr Baxter<br>Year 9 - 13            |        |
|                                                                                              | <b>Debating Club</b><br>3:00pm - 4:00pm<br>Room 211<br>Staff: Mr Connor<br>All Year Groups                                            |                                                                                                              | <b>Craft Club</b><br>3:00pm - 4:00pm<br>Room: 007<br>Staff: Mrs Harrington<br>All Year Groups         |        |
|                                                                                              | <b>Design Technology Club</b><br>3:00pm - 4:00pm<br>Room 037<br>Staff: Miss Hepworth-Smith<br>Key Stage 3<br>Starting after half term |                                                                                                              |                                                                                                       |        |

## Year 7

### Calendar Change – Year 7 Parents' Evening

The Year 7 Parents' Evening has been moved from Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November (Bonfire Night) to Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November.

Apologies for the change of date, but we felt it was sensible to avoid holding a school event on Bonfire Night, allowing both parents and staff to enjoy the evening with their families.

The Parents' Evening will be held virtually, with further information about appointments and how to access the evening sent out nearer the time.

Mr Tierney  
Deputy Headteacher

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### **Mandarin lessons**

Thank you to all parents, carers and Year 7 students who have expressed an interest in beginning the Mandarin Excellence Programme at Pudsey Grammar School. We are anticipating that lessons will begin in the next few weeks, before the half term break.

Mrs Maloney  
Subject Leader of MFL

### **Smashed Live Drama Workshop**

On Wednesday, Year 7 students had the opportunity to watch the Smashed Live drama workshop, which focused on the important issue of underage drinking. The interactive performance encouraged students to think about the risks and consequences associated with alcohol, as well as the importance of making safe and responsible choices.

### **PGL Trip – Waiting List**

All places on the PGL trip have now been taken. However, we do have a waiting list available.

If you would like to add your child to the waiting list, please follow the instructions provided on ParentMail.

### **Celebrating Year 7 Achievements**

We would love to hear about the positive things our Year 7 students are achieving outside of school. Whether your child has achieved something in sport, music, dance, the arts, a club, a competition, or through another personal accomplishment, we would be delighted to hear about it.

Sharing these positive news stories gives us the opportunity to celebrate our students' achievements and recognise the effort, dedication and talents they demonstrate beyond the classroom. Please do get in touch and let us know about their successes so we can celebrate them with our Year 7 community at [r.morrell@pudseygrammar.co.uk](mailto:r.morrell@pudseygrammar.co.uk).

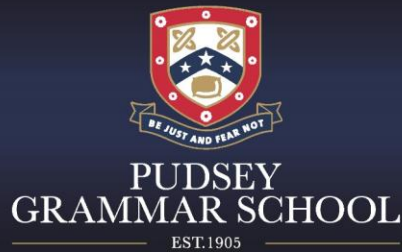
Mrs Morrell  
Year 7 Director of Studies

Miss Exley  
Year 7 Leader

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## **YEAR 8**

Year 8 have carried on their great start to the year keeping up excellent attendance and attitude throughout. We now have weekly attendance prizes to reward the students who are doing the right things all the time. This week we had 'Smashed Live' come into the school to



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talk about the dangers of alcohol and other substances to the year. Year 8 represented the school excellently and listened closely to a mature topic.

As always, I want to encourage students to make the most of the extra-curricular activities available to them to really get the most out of school. Please see the Extra-Curricular section of this Bulletin to see what clubs and activities are taking place next week. The boys football team have made a really solid start to their season winning one and losing one in the league but beating Guiseley to progress in the school cup.

Mr Lucas  
Year 8 Director of Studies

Miss Birdsall  
Year 8 Leader

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## YEAR 9

We are now halfway through the term, and it has been lovely to see Year 9 continuing to make such a positive start to the school year.

A particular well done to the year group for the excellent uniform standards we have seen recently. It is great to see students looking smart, prepared and ready to learn each day.

As we head into the final few weeks of the term, we are asking students to make a big final push and keep up their effort. This is an important time to stay focused in lessons, maintain positive behaviour and continue to take pride in their work. Every lesson counts and we want Year 9 to finish the term as strongly as they have started it.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and encouragement at home. It makes a real difference.

Mrs Mitchell  
Year 9 Director of Studies

Mrs Swithenbank  
Year 9 Leader

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## YEAR 10

We would like to start by saying how impressed we have been with the way our Year 10 students have begun the new academic year. They have made a really positive start, and it has been fantastic to see so many students approaching their lessons with enthusiasm, maturity and a determination to do well. We are very proud of them.

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### Attendance and resilience

As we move further into the term, we would like to remind parents and carers of the importance of contacting school if your child is unwell. If a student is genuinely too ill to attend school, please follow the usual absence procedures and keep us informed. At the same time, we would encourage families to help students develop resilience when dealing with minor illnesses and everyday setbacks. Where a student is well enough to attend, coming into school and maintaining their usual routine is important. Every lesson counts in Year 10 and Year 11, and missed learning can quickly accumulate.

### Assessment Week – Week Commencing 19 October

We encourage students to begin preparing now rather than leaving revision until the last few days, students can talk to their teachers and check Arbor for further information.

A few simple habits can make a significant difference:

- ✦ Start early: Short, regular revision sessions are much more effective than trying to learn everything the night before.
- ✦ Create a routine: Set aside a realistic amount of time each evening and try to stick to it.
- ✦ Take breaks: Short, planned breaks help students maintain concentration.
- ✦ Reduce distractions: Put phones and other distractions away during revision sessions.
- ✦ Get enough sleep: A good night's sleep is essential for concentration, memory and wellbeing.
- ✦ Ask for help: If a student is unsure about something, encourage them to speak to their teacher rather than letting a gap in their understanding grow.

Most importantly, please encourage your child to see assessment week as an opportunity to show what they can do rather than something to worry about. Consistent effort, good attendance and sensible revision habits will all help them to make the most of these assessments.

Thank you for your continued support. Together, we can help our Year 10 students maintain this excellent start and build the habits and resilience they need to succeed throughout their GCSE journey.

Mr Syed  
Year 10 Director of Studies

Miss Mathie  
Year 10 Leader

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### **YEAR 11**

#### **Blackpool Trip**

The deadline for payment for the Year 11 Blackpool Rewards Trip is fast approaching – Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October.

A huge well done to all of our students who have worked hard to meet the criteria for the trip. It has been fantastic to see so many students making a real effort with their attendance, punctuality and behaviour in order to earn their place.

For those who are unable to attend the trip there will be a collapsed timetable for students remaining in school to follow on the day.

If you have not yet made payment, please ensure this is completed by the deadline. If you are experiencing any issues with ParentMail, please contact the school so that we can help.

#### **November Trial Exams**

Looking ahead, our November Trial Exams will take place from 9<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> November.

A separate letter containing the exam details will be shared.

Please note: For Mandarin, French and Spanish, students should check their individual timetable carefully as timings and paper durations vary depending on whether they are completing Foundation or Higher papers.

We would encourage parents and carers to support students by helping them to establish a realistic revision timetable, checking that they have the resources they need and encouraging them to revise little and often. More revision guidance and resources will be shared with students by their classroom teachers.

Miss Legg  
Year 11 Director of Studies

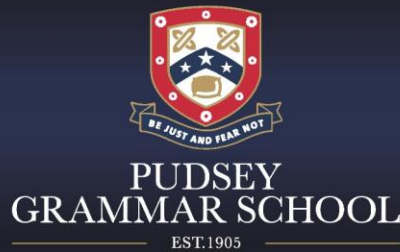
Mrs Green  
Year 11 Leader

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### **SIXTH FORM**

#### **NHS Blood Donations**

A huge thank you to all the students who booked an appointment and donated blood today. Thank you for giving your time and making a real difference to others – your generosity is greatly appreciated.



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### Sixth Form Open Evening – Student Ambassadors

We are looking for Sixth Form volunteers to become Student Ambassadors at our upcoming Open Evening. This is a great opportunity to represent the Sixth Form, welcome prospective students and families, and share your own experience of life at PGS. If you would like to get involved, please let Mrs Benson know as soon as possible that you would like to volunteer.

### Careers Bulletin

Upcoming In-School Workshops:

Progression Module (YEAR 12 ONLY):

Like the EPQ, the progression module is an extra qualification that could give you up to 16 UCAS points towards Leeds Beckett University, Leeds Trinity University or the University of Huddersfield. This course is a one-year programme involving a once a fortnight lesson with me where you will build CVs, explore careers, university courses or apprenticeship, and make a personal statement. Please find the link below to sign up!

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdF03WQlavTuy86p0SdRKzCRLWOZL7CxK87juWMwzWmoD7rqQ/viewform>

Year 12 & Year 13 Careers Labs:

Outside of appointments, if you would like to gain career guidance in some way, Miss Robinson will be leading small class sessions throughout the year on a variety of topics. The next Lab will run on the 25<sup>th</sup> November. Please find the link below to sign up as well as a list of the sessions that will run!

Apprenticeships

Personal Statement Guidance

Securing part-time work

Securing work experience

CV & Linked in Masterclass

Exploring Careers

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfqtD3UYHPctaWe3EKPVdksUMr6LTT4yY8n6LLxe4eON0Ys1g/viewform>

Year 12 & Year 13 Careers & Employability Workshop: Thursday 22nd October:

Representatives from the University of Leeds will be coming to PGS to deliver a 50 minute first of its kind workshop with Sixth Formers. This is a trial workshop with only 30 schools across the UK able to take part. This session will help with planning future pathways, identify your transferable skills and reflect on experiences that helped you grow along the way. This is the ideal session for you if you would like to go to university or a higher-level apprenticeship but

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you are slightly unsure on your route or how to sell yourself in an application! Register via the form below!

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeO7IEBZqtfX9Ub-ztQM2dpgZwWxEJ8LzLrv9Iz4YXAwuYw/viewform>

External Opportunities:

Sixth Form Student Discount Opportunities

Did you know that as a Sixth Form student in full-time education, Year 12 and Year 13 learners are eligible to sign up to reputable discount cards like UNIDAYS, Studentbeans and TOTUM. These discounts are available on a wide variety of sites and in-person stores from reductions on technology, to clothes and fashion retailers, restaurants and days out. Over 29 million students in Sixth Form and university use UNIDAYS to access exclusive offers and benefits. To sign up, download their apps or use their website - a photo of your student ID badge will be required!

<https://www.studentbeans.com/>  
<https://www.myunidays.com/GB/en-GB>  
<https://totum.com/>

Apprenticeship Webinar by Deloitte (Business, Finance, Technology)

Deloitte is hosting a free virtual insight evening on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October from 5.00pm–6.30pm for students interested in apprenticeships and starting a career straight after Sixth Form. You'll learn more about Deloitte's BrightStart Apprenticeship and Work Experience opportunities, including routes into Audit & Assurance, Tax, Consulting and Technology. You'll hear directly from Deloitte professionals, including people who have started their careers through the apprenticeship route, find out what the programmes involve, what qualifications you can gain while working, and have the opportunity to ask questions live. This is a great opportunity if you're considering an apprenticeship instead of university, or simply want to explore what a career at a major professional services firm could look like. The event is completely free and takes place online. Places are limited, so make sure you register early to secure your place. Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October · 5.00pm–6.30pm · Online.

[https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Deloitte\\_Virtual](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Deloitte_Virtual)

Economics Conference by London School of Economics

There is a fantastic opportunity for Sixth Form students to attend the Future Minds Economics Conference at the London School of Economics (LSE) on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2026. The event is aimed at Year 12 and 13 students interested in Economics, Politics and related subjects, and will give you the chance to explore topics beyond the A-level syllabus, including how capitalism works, why some countries experience stronger economic growth than others, and the factors affecting productivity in the UK. You will hear from leading economists and

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policymakers and have the opportunity to ask questions and take part in university-level debate. The conference takes place from 9.15am to 2.45pm at the Sheikh Zayed Theatre, Clement House, 99 Aldwych, London, WC2B 4BG. The event is completely free, but there are only 450 places available and they are being allocated on a first-come, first-served basis, so I would recommend registering as soon as possible if you are interested. This would be a great enrichment opportunity for anyone considering Economics, Politics or related subjects, as well as something you could discuss in university applications and personal statements.

<https://us.list-manage.com/8FtYTl5v82P?e=8292c26c9f&c2id=93be4f7da126accf89b7a8b818049cdb>

Sheffield Hallam University Webinar Series:

Sheffield Hallam are running a series of webinars throughout 2026/27, covering topics such as university applications, finance and student life. The first three webinars are: 6<sup>th</sup> October – Degree Apprenticeships vs Undergraduate Degrees, 7<sup>th</sup> October – Personal Statements: Beyond the Grades, and 8<sup>th</sup> October – Settling in: Student Accommodation at Hallam. These could be particularly useful if you're starting to think about your next steps after Sixth Form. If you're interested in any of these opportunities, please have a look at the Sheffield Hallam University website for further information and to book your place.

<https://shuoutreach.com/home/webinars/>

Miss Robinson  
Careers Lead

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