

**PARENT & CARER
WEEKLY BULLETIN**
Friday 9th October 2026

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

We have been busy setting targets for our Year 11 and 13 students this week for their forthcoming trial exams. We have been emphasising how with a focused effort on the easier marks they may have been losing they can quite rapidly improve their grades. The students will be told their targets in the next few days and we will be sharing these with parents and carers. I'm looking forward to seeing how the students perform in their trial exams.

Mark McKelvie
Headteacher

GENERAL NOTICES

Sixth Form Open Evening - Thursday 15th October 2026

On Thursday 15th October 2026, we will be holding our annual Sixth Form Open Evening from 5.00pm-7.30pm. To allow time for staff and students to prepare for this event, the school will close at the slightly earlier time for all students at 2.10pm. Years 7, 9 and 10 will leave after their period 5 lesson and Year 8, 11 and Post 16 will leave after their lunch. The school will re-open at the normal time on Friday 16th October 2026.

If you would like to book onto this event, please visit <https://www.ticketsource.com/pgs>.

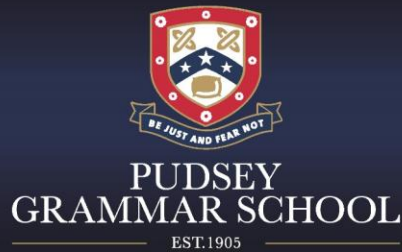
Miss Frost
PA to the Headteacher

Training Day 2 (Friday 23rd October 2026) and October Half Term Break

The next Training Day will take place on Friday 23rd October 2026 and the school will be closed to students on this day.

The October half term break also begins on Friday 23rd October 2026. The school will close from Friday 23rd October 2026 and will re-open at the normal time on Monday 2nd November 2026.

Miss Frost
PA to the Headteacher



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Student Success

This week we are delighted to share the positive news stories from students in our school community.

In particular congratulations to the following students:

Darcie - Year 8 - Overall 1st place in her gymnastic competition in Sheffield last weekend.

Addison - Year 9 - Congratulations for being selected for an international swim camp in October half term, and being selected for the Adam Peaty Regional Pathway camp.

Alfie, Joseph and Oscar - Year 10 - Well done on representing Stanningley U14s against Wanderers Australia in a special international fixture this week. Stanningley won the game 20-10!

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

<https://forms.gle/vzt5iusArwVjpojC9>

Mr Sammons
Assistant Headteacher

Attendance: Reporting an Absence

We understand that sometimes children are unable to attend school. If your child is going to be absent, please contact Pudsey Grammar School before 9.00am and provide a clear reason for their absence. This enables us to maintain accurate registers and ensures we know where our pupils are. Examples such as "unwell" or "won't be in school" will automatically be marked as unauthorised as this does not provide enough information to code the absence accordingly.

If an absence has not been reported, we will send a text message followed by a telephone call. If we are still unable to establish a reason, a home visit may be carried out as part of our safeguarding procedures.

Thank you for your continued support and for working with us to promote good attendance and keep our pupils safe.

Attendance Team



PUDSEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Week Commencing 12th October 2026 (Week 1)

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 3.00pm - 4.00pm Room: 232 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 3.00pm - 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 3.00pm - 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	
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	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 Hopworth-Smith Key Stage 3 Starting after half term			

Year 7

Restart a Heart Day

Next week all of Year 7 will take part in Restart a Heart Day. We have run this day in partnership with West Yorkshire Ambulance for many years now. Students will learn how to carry out CPR and get appropriate support should they come across people in cardiac arrest.

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All students will have the opportunity to spend 30 minutes with the team from West Yorkshire Ambulance.

Mr Sammons
Assistant Headteacher

Attendance – A Great Effort!

A huge thank you to our Year 7 students and parents for continuing to prioritise attendance. Attendance was excellent last week, and we are really pleased with the commitment shown by our students.

We are now entering the final two weeks before half term, so this is the last push! Please continue to support your child in attending school every day and arriving on time so that they can make the most of these final weeks of learning and finish the half term strongly.

Parents' Evening – Reminder

Just a reminder that, as previously communicated, the date for Year 7 Parents' Evening has changed.

Wednesday 4th November

Please make a note of the new date in your calendar. Further information regarding timings and arrangements will be shared in due course.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Morrell
Year 7 Director of Studies

Miss Exley
Year 7 Leader

YEAR 8

As we head into the final couple of weeks and the weather is starting to turn we are really happy with how the year have started this term. The attitude and effort shown has been brilliant and we want everyone to keep it up. Our weekly attendance awards have been very successful and we had 181 students with 100% attendance last week which was fantastic.

Mr Lucas
Year 8 Director of Studies

Miss Birdsall
Year 8 Leader

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YEAR 9

We are now heading into the final two weeks of the term, and we would like to encourage all of Year 9 to make a big push to finish the term positively. It has been lovely to see so many students working hard in lessons and showing positive attitudes throughout the school day.

Our 100% weekly attendance incentive has been going really well, and it has been fantastic to see students motivated to achieve excellent attendance. Please continue to encourage your child to attend school every day and arrive on time, ready to learn.

A reminder that we expect students to continue to maintain our high standards of school uniform. Please ensure students are coming to school in the correct uniform, with the appropriate footwear, blazer and equipment each day.

Thanks, as always, for your continued support.

Mrs Mitchell
Year 9 Director of Studies

Mrs Swithenbank
Year 9 Leader

YEAR 10

Year 10 Assessment Week - WC 19th October

This is a reminder that Year 10 Assessment Week will take place during the week commencing 19th October in classrooms.

Students should already be speaking to their teachers about the assessments they will complete and what they need to revise. It is important that students begin preparing now and make good use of their time at home to review their learning and practise key skills.

Please check Arbor regularly for information about upcoming assessments, and take some time to discuss these with your child at home. Asking them what they are being assessed on, what they feel confident about and what they need to improve can make a real difference.

A few simple study tips:

- ✦ Plan ahead: Spread revision over several days rather than leaving it until the night before.
- ✦ Test yourself: Use flashcards, practice questions or ask someone to quiz you - parents/carers can get involved!

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✦ Take breaks: Short, focused study sessions are more effective than long sessions without breaks.

✦ Sleep well: A good night's sleep helps you remember what you have learned. Screens should be off an hour before bed.

✦ Equipment: A weekly bag check is always useful to ensure your child is fully equipped and ready for the week ahead.

Thank you for your continued support in helping our Year 10 students prepare and achieve their best.

Mr Syed
Year 10 Director of Studies

Miss Mathie
Year 10 Leader

YEAR 11

Year 11 P16 Choices Bulletin

Below is a link to the latest Year 11 Post-16 Choices Bulletin. This provides an overview of the careers and post-16 support your child will receive throughout this academic year, alongside some useful updates from the Government regarding post-16 options, including changes to apprenticeships which will be effective immediately.

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1u-ns1OT3iOv6fIGmQfJ9xs2UMdd8qv64>

You may also have heard about planned changes to BTECs, with some qualifications being replaced by new V-Levels. These changes will not begin until September 2028 and will be introduced gradually. BTECs and AAQs remain valid, widely recognised qualifications and continue to be valued alongside A levels.

The bulletin also includes links to a range of colleges and technical education providers, where you can find further information and book places at upcoming open events (most events happen this and next month). We strongly recommend students apply to at least two post-16 providers before Christmas as most spaces will fill up quickly after in new year.

Our own Sixth Form Open Evening is taking place next Thursday 15th October, and there is still time to book a place. I will be available at the event to answer any careers and post-16 questions you may have. I will be based in the Sixth Form area on The Street, so please come and speak to me if you would like any advice or guidance.

If you have any questions about your child's next steps, post-16 options or the support we provide, please contact me at prospects@pudseygrammar.co.uk.

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I look forward to meeting you all next week.

Miss Robinson
Careers & Progression Manager

We are looking forward to taking our Year 11 students to Blackpool Pleasure Beach on Monday 12th October as a reward for their hard work and commitment.

Key information for students attending:

- Students should arrive at school **promptly at 8.30am**.
- Students do not need to wear school uniform for the trip. However, as we are visiting in October, we strongly recommend that students wear sensible, comfortable clothing and bring plenty of warm layers and a waterproof raincoat.
- Students must remain within the theme park throughout the day and are not permitted to leave the site.
- Students will be required to check in with staff during the day to ensure their safety and wellbeing.
- Coaches will depart Blackpool at approximately 4.30pm, with students expected to return to school by approximately 6.30pm.
- Please be aware that Pleasure Beach is cashless and therefore students should have access to an alternative payment method if they wish to purchase lunch/ snacks/ souvenirs during the day.

Students who are not attending the Blackpool trip are still expected to attend school as normal. They should arrive at their usual time and will be provided with a collapsed timetable for the day.

Students must attend school in full school uniform and should bring the equipment they would normally need for the school day.

Miss Legg
Year 11 Director of Studies

Mrs Green
Year 11 Leader

SIXTH FORM

Key Dates

Thursday 15th October - Sixth Form Open Evening @ 5.00pm - 7.30pm

Wednesday 21st October - Y13 New York (Mon 7th to Fri 11th 2026) Parent/Carer Meeting @ 5.00pm-6.00pm

Monday 30th November – Year 13 Trial Exam Week

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GCSE Resit Exam Dates

Tuesday 3rd November - GCSE English Lang Paper 1 @ 9.00am

Wednesday 4th November - GCSE Maths Paper 1 @ 9.00am

Thursday 5th November - GCSE English Lang Paper 2 @ 9.00am

Friday 6th November - GCSE Maths Paper 2 @ 9.00am

Monday 9th November - GCSE Maths Paper 3 @ 9.00am

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.

★ 13th January 2027

Deadline for the majority of university courses for 2027 entry.

Careers Bulletin - Miss Robinson

Upcoming In-School Workshops:

Year 12 and 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 25th 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 & LinkedIn Masterclass
- *Exploring Careers

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfqtD3UYHPctaWe3EKPVdksUMr6LTT4yY8n6LLxe4eON0Yslg/viewform>

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External Opportunities:

Careers in Leeds Employment & Apprenticeship Fair 3rd November 2026:

Every year, Leeds City Council hosts a huge apprenticeship fair at Leeds Direct Arena... This year, this has been rebranded as Careers in Leeds. This will be the biggest and best event of the year to meet 100+ employers and training providers to talk about not just apprenticeships but wider local employment opportunities for post-year 13 studies. This event takes place on Tuesday 3rd November.

I highly recommend that any student in Year 12 or Year 13 attends. Link below!

https://www.universe.com/events/careers-in-leeds-2026-jobs-training-and-opportunities-in-the-city-tickets-K3BH24?utm_source=Email+%26+Partner+Outreach&utm_medium=Email+%26+Partner+Outreach&utm_campaign=Careers+In+Leeds+2026&utm_id=CIL2026

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/>

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