

PARENT & CARER WEEKLY BULLETIN

Friday 16th October 2026

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

It was my privilege last night to welcome over 400 people into our building to showcase our Sixth Form. We have seen record numbers of students applying for our Sixth Form and we have a strong track record of welcoming students from other schools across Pudsey and the wider area. The feedback from students and staff was extremely positive. I'm proud that our school continues to provide a Sixth Form based within a school with all the benefits associated to that when all schools in the area have unfortunately had to close their Sixth Forms.

I strongly believe that young people should have a choice at the age of 16. If your choice is that you want to go into a college environment there are plenty of opportunities across the area to do so. However, many students prefer to be in a smaller Sixth Form environment of 260 students where you can be known as an individual and be better supported as a result.

Given the significant crisis in youth unemployment across the country at the moment, I am proud that the percentage of students from our Sixth Form who go into further education, employment or training is significantly higher than both the local, college and national averages. This clearly demonstrates that attending our Sixth Form gives our students an excellent preparation for the next stage of their lives.

Mark McKelvie
Headteacher

GENERAL NOTICES

October Half Term Break

A reminder that the school will close on Thursday 22nd October 2026. Friday 23rd October 2026 is Training Day 2 and the school will be closed to students.

The school 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

Congratulations to the following students who have shown outstanding achievements in the last week:

- Joel - Year 8 - Who achieved their brown belt in karate on Sunday and is aiming to gain his black belt within the next 18 months.
- Elwood - Year 10 - Awarded "Student of the Quarter" at his martial arts academy.

Please remember to keep sending in your child's achievements via the form below:
<https://forms.gle/VWIVd2T89a3LHm7H6>

Mr Sammons
Assistant Headteacher

Free T-Levels Webinar for Year 10 and 11 Parents & Carers

As part of our commitment to helping students make informed decisions about their future, we would like to share details of a free webinar for parents and carers exploring T Levels as a post-16 option.

Date: Tuesday 20th October 2026

Time: 6.30pm–7.15pm

Register: <https://www.amazingapprenticeships.com/events/t-levels-week-parent-and-carer-webinar-understanding-t-levels/>

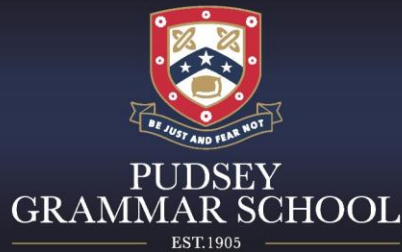
The webinar will explain what T Levels involve, how they compare with other post-16 options, and the progression opportunities they can offer. It will feature David Scott, T Levels Lead at the Department for Education, alongside a parent sharing their experience of T Levels. T Levels are a technical qualification option for young people aged 16–19, combining classroom learning with industry experience. This webinar is a useful opportunity to learn more about this pathway and consider whether it could be suitable for your child.

You do not need to attend live to benefit. Parents and carers who register will receive access to the recording and presentation slides afterwards.

Miss Robinson
Careers Lead

No Nuts in School Reminder

To help keep all of our pupils safe, we kindly remind parents and carers that nuts and products containing nuts should not be brought into school.



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We have students and staff in school with severe nut allergies, and even small amounts of nuts or accidental cross-contamination can trigger a life-threatening allergic reaction (anaphylaxis).

When preparing packed lunches and snacks, please check ingredient labels carefully and avoid including any foods that contain nuts.

We greatly appreciate your support and cooperation in helping us maintain a safe environment for all members of our school community.

Mrs Marsh
First Aid Lead

JOY-A-THON

On the 24th October, some of our students will be taking part in the Pudsey JOY-A-THON at Pudsey Leisure Centre. This event will celebrate music from those in the local community and is a 24-hour event. Our students will be performing between 9am - 11am.

We are so excited to be able to take part in this and hope to see lots of you there to support our students.

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1nU6x1EJKAVb0zvGTmOJYoSjOKNPXMy2C>

Miss Boshier
Teacher of Drama

Miss O'Gorman
Subject Leader of Music



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EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Week Commencing 19th October 2026 (Week 2)

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: Main Hall Staff: Mr Pugh & Miss Ingle All Year Groups	Cyber Trailblazers 3.00pm - 4.00pm Room 011 Staff: Mr Pugh All Year Groups	
School Band 3.10pm - 4.00pm Room: 232 Staff: Miss O'Gorman All Year	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	
	Drama Club 3.10pm - 4.00pm Room: Drama Studio Staff: Miss Turner KS3 Only	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 Starts 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	Dutch Club 3.00pm - 4.00pm Room: 207 Staff: Miss Hornsby All Year Groups	
	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		Craft Club 3.00pm - 4.00pm Room: 007 Staff: Mrs Harrington All Year Groups	
	Design Technology Club 3.00pm - 4.00pm Room 037 Staff: Miss Hepworth-Smith Key Stage 3 Starting after half term			

Year 7

Parents' Evening

Information regarding the Year 7 Parents' Evening, which will take place remotely via SchoolCloud, will be sent out imminently. Please take the time to read the accompanying information guide to ensure you can access the platform successfully. The booking system will open next week, allowing you to book appointments with your child's teachers.

Restart a Heart

All Year 7 students will have completed an important session today called Restart a Heart. This session introduces students to vital lifesaving skills, helping them understand how to respond in an emergency situation. These skills can make a real difference and are an important part of developing students' confidence in helping others.

Behaviour and Attitude to Learning

All Year 7 students continue to be a credit to themselves, consistently demonstrating excellent behaviour and a positive attitude to learning in their lessons. We are incredibly

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proud of the way they have settled into school life and the high standards they continue to maintain. Well done to all of our Year 7 students!

Mrs Morrell
Year 7 Director of Studies

Miss Exley
Year 7 Leader

YEAR 8

As we approach the end of half term, we would like to acknowledge the overall positive attitude, attendance and focus shown by Year 8 students this year. It is important that students maintain these standards and keep up their good work until we break up. We would like as many students as possible to be in the draw to win attendance prizes. Please be reminded that next week is a 4-day week, with school closed on Friday for a training day.

Mr Lucas
Year 8 Director of Studies

Miss Birdsall
Year 8 Leader

YEAR 9

STEM Workshop Success

A huge congratulations to our Year 9 students who participated in the hands-on STEM workshop on Thursday! The leaders were thoroughly impressed by the students' creativity, problem-solving skills, and teamwork while tackling complex engineering challenges. Thank you to the students involved for representing our school community so brilliantly.

Importance of Attendance

As we near the end of the term, we want to remind all families of the critical role consistent school attendance plays in student achievement and well-being. Every single day in the classroom helps build key concepts, maintain learning momentum, and keep students connected with their peers and teachers. Please help us support your child by ensuring they arrive on time and ready to learn every day.

Term Reminder: 1 Week Remaining

Please note that there is **1 week left of term!** As we count down to the upcoming break, please encourage your child to stay focussed and finish the term on a strong note.

Thank you for your continued support

Mrs Mitchell
Year 9 Director of Studies

Mrs Swithenbank
Year 9 Leader

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YEAR 10

Assessment Week Begins Monday 19th October!

As our Year 10 students prepare for their upcoming assessments next week, we would like to wish them the very best of luck! We encourage all students to try their best, stay positive and remember that these assessments are an opportunity to demonstrate what they have learned.

Students should continue speaking to their teachers before each assessment to ask questions, clarify any uncertainties and seek some final advice on how best to prepare.

Three top tips for assessment success:

- ✦ Read questions carefully – Take your time, underline key words and make sure you understand what each question is asking.
- ✦ Manage your time – Check how many marks each question is worth and spend your time accordingly. If you get stuck, move on and return to it later.
- ✦ Stay calm and focused – Take a deep breath, trust your preparation and give every question your best effort.

Thank you for your continued support. We wish all our Year 10 students every success in their assessments!

EQUANS Workshop

On Tuesday, 120 of our Year 10 students took part in an exciting work experience morning with EQUANS. Students explored four different roles within the company, completing practical activities that replicated real-life tasks. They responded to briefs, developed ideas and presented their suggestions, gaining valuable insight into the world of work.

EQUANS were incredibly impressed with our students' conduct, enthusiasm and contributions throughout the morning, and we were equally proud of how they represented the school. Also, thank you to Miss Robinson for putting this event and experience on for our students.

Well done, Year 10!

Mr Syed
Year 10 Director of Studies

Miss Mathie
Year 10 Leader

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YEAR 11

Blackpool Pleasure Beach

A huge well done to our Year 11 students for being absolutely wonderful during our recent trip to Blackpool Pleasure Beach! It was fantastic to see so many students enjoying themselves, making memories with their friends and representing the school so positively. We hope everyone had an excellent day and thoroughly enjoyed this well-deserved reward. Thank you to all the students for their excellent conduct and for making the trip such a success!

November Trial Exams and Revision Preparation

Parents/carers should have received a communication this week outlining the upcoming November trial exams, including the exam timetable, the content students will be assessed on and their target grades. Please take some time to go through this information with your child to help them understand what they need to revise and where they should be focusing their efforts.

During form time, students will be working through a series of sessions focused on developing effective revision techniques to help them prepare for their GCSE examinations. This week's session focused on creating an effective revision timetable. All students began creating their own revision timetable during form time, and we would encourage parents/carers to support them in completing this at home.

We recommend that students organise their revision into manageable 30-minute blocks, with short breaks in between, to help them stay focused and make their revision more effective. Once completed, students should display their timetable in their designated revision space at home so that they can refer to it regularly and establish a consistent revision routine.

These trial exams are an important opportunity for students to practise working under exam conditions, identify areas for improvement and build confidence ahead of their GCSE examinations. We encourage all students to begin revising now and to follow their revision timetable consistently.

GCSE Revision Guides – Available to Purchase via ParentMail

We have also sent a separate communication regarding our range of discounted GCSE revision guides and revision resources, which are available to purchase through ParentMail. These resources have been secured at reduced prices and can provide valuable support as students prepare for their GCSE examinations.

Please remember the following important information:

Order deadline: 9.00am on Friday 23rd October 2026. Unfortunately, we cannot accept orders after this time.

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Check before purchasing: Please discuss your order with your child to ensure you select the correct resources for their subjects and exam tiers. This is particularly important for Combined and Triple Science, and Foundation and Higher tier subjects.

Computer Science: Revision resources are not available through ParentMail, as these have already been provided by the ICT Department.

Ordering guidance: A Business Studies revision guide will be selected by default when you first open the payment item. If you do not wish to purchase this guide, please select an alternative to remove the default selection. Each guide must be added to your basket separately before proceeding to checkout.

We will place our order with suppliers during the October half-term holiday. Subject to stock availability and delivery times, we hope that students will be able to collect their revision guides during the first week back after half-term, commencing Monday 2nd November. We will provide a further update once the resources have arrived and are ready for collection.

Miss Legg
Year 11 Director of Studies

Mrs Green
Year 11 Leader

SIXTH FORM

Key Dates

Wednesday 21st October – Year 13 New York (Mon 7th to Fri 11th 2026) Parent/Carer Meeting @ 5.00-6.00pm

Monday 30th November – Year 13 Trial Exam Week

GCSE Resit Exam Dates

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

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

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

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

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

A huge congratulations to all Year 13 students who have completed an early entry UCAS application and their entrance exams. This is a significant achievement, and we are very proud of the effort and maturity they have shown. While they wait to hear back from universities, the decisions they are making now are already helping to shape their future progression after PGS and remains an exciting time!

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This remains an intense time of year for our students, with Year 12/Year 13 GCSE resit examinations after half term and the essential Year 13 trial exam week beginning on Monday 30th November. The trials will give a valuable indication of how students are progressing towards their summer grades, so it is worth encouraging them to plan ahead.

Our most successful students are those who are organised, plan well and keep a healthy balance in their lives. You can support this at home by encouraging regular routines, good sleep and time to switch off alongside their revision.

If your child has any worries, or would benefit from help with organising, planning and prioritising their tasks, please encourage them to speak to their form tutor or a member of the Sixth Form Team. You are also very welcome to contact us directly. We are always here to support.

Important UCAS Deadline Dates 2027 Entry

★ 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 & 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

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

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](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

Mrs Benson
Post 16 Administrative Support