

PARENT & CARER WEEKLY BULLETIN

Thursday 22nd October 2026

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

We are finally at the end of the longest half term of the academic year and it's clear both students and staff are ready for a break. We have made a significant amount of progress this half term with our new Year 7 students settling in well, attendance improving across the school and our Year 11 and 13 students gearing up for their trial exams next half term.

Thank you for all of your support this half term and I hope you manage to spend some time with your children over the half term break.

We'll look forward to welcoming them all back into school at the usual time on Monday 2nd November 2026.

Mark McKelvie
Headteacher

GENERAL NOTICES

October Half Term Break/Training Day

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.

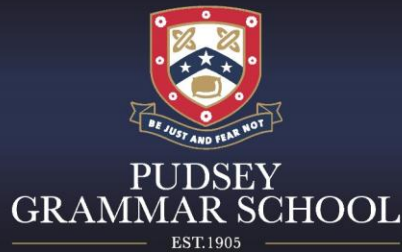
The school will re-open at the normal time on Monday 2nd November 2026.

Miss Frost
PA to the Headteacher

Temporary Relocation of the Isolation Room from Monday 2nd November to Friday 27th November

From Monday 2nd November, we will be temporarily relocating our Isolation Room to the Green Room, which is located on the school fields and is accessed through the secure gates off Grange View Road/Mount Pleasant Road, using the same entrance students use when accessing the school fields for outdoor PE lessons.

Students arriving after the start of the school day:



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Students who arrive late and are required to attend Isolation should make their way directly to the secure gates near the school fields - they will not be taken through school.

Upon arrival, students should press the buzzer, the gate will open and they will walk down to the Green Room Isolation Room.

It is the responsibility of the student to make their own way to the Green Room area.

If a student reports to Main Reception, they will be asked to make their own way to the Green Room Isolation area on the school fields.

Students arriving on time:

Students who are required to attend Isolation and arrive at school before the start of the school day will be escorted to the Green Room by a member of staff.

This is a temporary arrangement. To help ensure students report to the correct location, we ask that they check their Arbor app before arriving at school each day, as this will confirm whether they are required to attend Isolation and where they need to report.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mr McCroakam
Assistant Headteacher

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Week Commencing 2nd November 2026 (Week 1)

Please click on the link below to view the extra-curricular timetable for week commencing 2nd November 2026 (Week 1).

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1DwFY5lzIPJpDdgHPNtzR-TzeCnCWHDWpuf3LmyxG_Tg/edit?gid=934527513#gid=934527513

Miss Frost
PA to the Headteacher

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Celebrating Success in our School Community

Thanks to all the positive messages this half term where we have been able to share in the success of student achievement outside of school. It has been a real privilege to read these stories.

Last week we have heard about the following:



Gracie - Year 8 - Well done on releasing and producing her own song, and distributing this via Spotify, Amazon, iTunes, You Tube and many other platforms, what a great achievement.



Shaan - Year 10 - Achieving a Black belt in kickboxing back in July and for coaching younger athletes along the way.



Ebony - Year 9 - Along with her team, she won a silver medal at the Blackburn Synchronised Skating competition.



Leah - Year 8 – Took part in 8 races in the Yorkshire Swimming Association Gala, and setting personal bests along the way. Well done, Leah.

Remember you can let us know your child's achievements at the following link:

<https://forms.gle/ZvwjqSjeND9ZmYBw9>

Year 7

Year 7 Mandarin Lessons

From the week commencing 19th October, Mandarin lessons have begun to be scheduled on the timetables of the relevant Year 7 students. Please keep an eye on your child's Arbor timetable so that they are well prepared for the first week of the new half term.

Mrs Maloney
Subject Leader of MFL

As we reach the end of our first half term, we would like to take this opportunity to celebrate the fantastic start our Year 7 students have made to secondary school!

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1. A Fantastic First Half Term!

A huge well done to all our Year 7 students for an amazing first half term! We are incredibly proud of how well they have settled into school, the positive attitudes they have shown towards their learning, and their excellent attendance and behaviour. It has been wonderful to see them growing in confidence, embracing new routines and becoming part of our school community. They should all be very proud of what they have achieved so far!

2. Parents' Evening – Bookings Now Open

Bookings for our upcoming Parents' Evening are now live! We are really looking forward to meeting with all parents and carers to discuss how your child has settled into Year 7, celebrate their successes and talk about how we can continue to support their progress. These conversations are an important opportunity for us to work together to ensure every student gets the very best out of their secondary school experience. Please do book your appointments if you haven't already done so.

3. Have a Wonderful Half Term!

Finally, we would like to wish all our Year 7 students and their families a lovely, restful half term break. We hope everyone enjoys some well-deserved time to relax, recharge and spend time with family and friends.

Thank you for your continued support throughout this first half term. We look forward to welcoming everyone back refreshed and ready for another fantastic half term!

Wishing you all a wonderful break!

Mrs Morrell
Year 7 Director of Studies

Miss Exley
Year 7 Leader

YEAR 8

Well done to all our Year 8 students for their hard work and dedication throughout this long first half-term. They have settled into the new academic year brilliantly, showing focus and enthusiasm in their studies and extra-curricular activities. We hope everyone enjoys a restful, well-deserved half-term break. Please use this time to recharge, as the upcoming term leading up to the Christmas break is another busy one! A reminder that when we come back it will be Week A.

Mr Lucas
Year 8 Director of Studies

Miss Birdsall
Year 8 Leader

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YEAR 9

We hope all of our Year 9 students and their families enjoy a well-deserved, restful, and safe October half-term break. It is time for everyone to recharge their batteries, spend quality time with family and friends, and return refreshed for the second half of the term.

Mrs Mitchell
Year 9 Director of Studies

Mrs Swithenbank
Year 9 Leader

YEAR 10

A huge congratulations to our Year 10 students on a fantastic start to the first half term! It has been encouraging to see students settling into their GCSE courses and embracing the challenges and opportunities that Year 10 brings. They have made a really positive start, and there is plenty to build on.

Assessment week has gone well, and I look forward to seeing how students have performed. The results will help inform our first reports, allowing us to celebrate successes, recognise progress and identify areas for development. We will be in touch soon to share these with you.

As we move into Half Term Two, our focus is on building on this strong start and maintaining positive momentum - positive attendance will be a key factor in this. I encourage parents and students to reflect together on their strengths, celebrate achievements and identify areas for improvement.

I wish all our families a safe, happy and restful half-term break. Enjoy the opportunity to relax, recharge and spend time together!

Mr Syed
Year 10 Director of Studies

Miss Mathie
Year 10 Leader

YEAR 11

As we reach the end of this half-term, we would like to congratulate Year 11 on their efforts so far. It has been a busy half term but they have worked very hard!

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Preparing for November Trial Exams

Over the half-term holiday, it is important that students strike a healthy balance between taking time to relax and preparing for their upcoming November trial exams, which begin on Monday 9th November.

Students have received information about their exam timetable via their school email, the content they will be assessed on and their target grades. Please encourage your child to use this information to prioritise their revision and focus on the topics where they need to make the most progress.

We recommend that students organise their revision into manageable 30-minute blocks, with short breaks in between, to help them remain focused. Please encourage your child to complete their revision timetable over the holiday and display it in their revision space at home so they have a clear plan to follow.

GCSE Revision Guides

A reminder that our discounted GCSE revision guides and resources are available to purchase through ParentMail until 9.00am on Friday 23rd October 2026. These resources can provide valuable support with independent revision. Please check the separate communication sent last week for ordering instructions and ensure you select the correct guides for your child's subjects and exam tiers.

Miss Legg
Year 11 Director of Studies

Mrs Green
Year 11 Leader

SIXTH FORM

As we reach the end of an 8 week half term, we would like to take a moment to recognise the hard work and commitment shown by our Year 12 and Year 13 students. It has been a long and demanding stretch, and they have risen to it. There is plenty for our Year 13 students to focus on as we move forward:

Trial exam week is a valuable opportunity to demonstrate progress towards target grades. It gives students a clear picture of where they stand and where to focus their final push. UCAS applications remain of equal importance. Students should continue to prioritise these and make full use of the support available from their tutors and the Sixth Form team. For those still working out their next steps, the key is to make the most of the opportunities available, with the best possible attendance and grades. Strong attendance and strong results keep every door open.

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Key Dates

Monday 30th November – Year 13 Trial Exam Week

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.

Our Year 12 students have shown real resilience in their first term of Sixth Form. The step up from GCSE is significant, and they have handled it with maturity. Well done to you all! We hope all our students enjoy a well-earned rest and return refreshed and ready for what is a very important half term ahead. Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

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

In-school Opportunities (Miss Robinson)

Year 12 Work Experience Week: 12 - 16/07/2026

This academic year, all Year 12 students will be expected to find themselves a work placement to attend week commencing Monday 12th July for 5 days. This placement should ideally be relevant to their career interests. Students should start to engage with this process now by having conversations at home, with friends and personal networks and emailing local employers themselves to ensure they have a placement secured for the end of the year. Further guidance will be shared after half term regarding this opportunity.

Year 12 AND 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



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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/1FAIpQLSfgtD3UYHPctaWe3EKPVdksUMr6LTT4yY8n6LLxe4eON0Yslg/viewform>

External Opportunities (Miss Robinson)

Careers in Leeds Employment & Apprenticeship Fair 3/11/2026

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 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 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