PUDSEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL
EST. 1905

PARENT & CARER WEEKLY BULLETIN

Friday 6th November 2026

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

We are having a celebration in school today. This is the first anniversary of the opening of our Future Foundations provision. Prior to its opening we had to use expensive alternative provision providers and students who found the mainstream curriculum challenging were sent off the school site for their education with mixed results.

Since we opened Future Foundations, the transformation has been excellent. Students are now taught on our site by our teachers and supported by our fantastic team of Miss Kelly, Miss Lavan and led by Miss Armitage. The development of this provision has been astonishing and it has a good track record of reintegrating students back into the main school who were previously finding things difficult.

I am delighted at how Future Foundation has developed over the past year and I know it will go from strength to strength in the future.

Mark McKelvie
Headteacher

GENERAL NOTICES

Date for your Diary – Training Day

Please be aware that the next Training Day will take place on Friday 27th November 2026 and the school will be closed to students on this day. The school will re-open as normal on Monday 30th November 2026.

Miss Frost
PA to the Headteacher

Poppy Appeal 2026

On Monday and Tuesday, poppies will be available to buy in school. If they would like to buy a poppy, students should bring in a small amount of change to donate. Student Ambassadors will visit classrooms during Period 1 to offer this opportunity. The recommended donation is 50p-£1.

Advent Calendar Appeal

One of our Year 7 families has been in contact to raise awareness of a Advent Calendar Appeal they run each year.

This is a fantastic cause, providing advent calendars to children who are inpatients in local hospitals. As a school we want to support this and will collect advent calendars in reception that will then be distributed. If you would like to donate an advent calendar, please drop this into reception before Wednesday 25th November.

For more details about the campaign and how you can support please visit:
https://www.gofundme.com/f/finleys-advent-calendar-appeal-9zudh?attribution_id=sl:6fffad87-161a-40a1-b9ec-b881769c3674&ts=1793528849&utm_campaign=natman_sharesheet_dash&utm_medium=customer&utm_source=copy_link&video_sharing=enabled

Mr Sammons
Assistant Headteacher

Positive News in the Community

We hope you have had a restful and relaxing half term.

Remember you can let us know your child's achievements at the following link:
https://forms.gle/ZvwjqSjeND9ZmYBw9

Mr Sammons
Assistant Headteacher

Understanding Anxiety in Young People for Parents/Carers

At Pudsey Grammar School, we work closely with the MindMate Support Team to support the emotional health and wellbeing of our students. They are offering a free virtual workshop for parents and carers of young people aged 5–18 who would like to understand more about anxiety and how best to support their child. The session will explore the signs of anxiety, the Fight, Flight or Freeze response, avoidance and practical strategies to help young people manage anxiety, including regulation strategies and Worry Time.

Date: Thursday 26th November 2026
Time: 4.30pm – 5.00pm
Venue: Online via Microsoft Teams

Parents and carers can join by scanning the QR code on the attached flyer or using the meeting details provided. For support joining the session, please contact lcht.mmsupportteam@nhs.net.

https://drive.google.com/open?id=1nOfIGpIDegDsKQG9tKGiVyXeFECpAmc9

Mrs Williams
Designated Safeguarding Lead

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No Nuts in School - Reminder

To help keep all of our pupils and staff safe, we kindly remind parents and carers that nuts and products containing nuts or nut products should not be consumed in school.

We have pupils 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

Reporting Absences – Reminder

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.

Ways to contact: 0113 255 8277, attendance@pudseygrammar.co.uk, or log on to the Arbor app (see the school website for more information).

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

Attendance Team

Spud Bar Pop-Up - Thursday 12th November 2026

We are delighted to announce that our catering provider will be hosting a Spud Bar Pop-Up on the Street on Thursday 12th November. This is a slight change to the Lebanese Pop-Up that was advertised this week via email to parents and carers.

As a special addition to the usual lunchtime service, pupils and staff will have the opportunity to enjoy a selection of bases, toppings (Chipotle Beef, Moroccan Chicken, Chilli Beans), salad and dressing prepared by the catering team's Executive Chef. This exciting event is designed

to offer something different from our regular menu and provide a chance to try new flavours and dishes.

Please note:
The regular lunch menu will remain unchanged and will be available as normal.
The pop-up will be offered as an additional option alongside the usual meal service.
The event will be located within the Street and managed separately to ensure lunchtime service runs smoothly.

These themed food events have been very popular in other schools and are a great way to introduce pupils to cuisines from around the world.

We hope staff and students will take the opportunity to give it a try and enjoy this exciting lunchtime experience.

Mrs Devine
Finance & Premises Officer

Extra-Curricular Activities

Week commencing 9th November 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: 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			

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Year 7

It has been another positive week for Year 7, and I would like to take this opportunity to share a few updates and reminders.

Attendance – A Fantastic Effort!

Year 7 attendance continues to be high, which is fantastic to see. Well done to all our students for maintaining such positive attendance. Regular attendance is essential in ensuring students make the most of every learning opportunity, settle into school life and make strong progress. Thank you for your continued support in making attendance a priority.

Parents' Evening – Thank You

Thank you to everyone who attended our Parents' Evening on Wednesday. I hope you found the conversations with teachers useful and informative. These opportunities are invaluable in helping us work together to support your child's progress, celebrate their successes and identify areas for further development. We really appreciate your engagement and support.

Uniform – A Few Important Reminders

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind everyone of our school uniform expectations. We are noticing a few areas where standards need to be reinforced:

Ties: Students should arrive at school wearing their school tie correctly and ensure it remains part of their uniform throughout the school day.

Shoes: Students must wear appropriate school shoes in line with our uniform policy.

PE Kit: Students should not arrive at school wearing their PE kit. Unless specifically instructed otherwise, students are expected to arrive in full school uniform and change into their PE kit when required.

Thank you for your support in reinforcing these expectations at home. Maintaining high standards of uniform helps promote a sense of pride, belonging and consistency across the year group.

Looking Ahead

Thank you once again for your continued support. It has been pleasing to see how well Year 7 are continuing to settle into life at Pudsey Grammar School. We want to maintain this positive momentum and ensure every student continues to thrive both academically and personally.

Mrs Morrell
Year 7 Director of Studies

Miss Exley
Year 7 Leader

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YEAR 8

It's great to see the students back from the half term with the same attitude as before. The weather is starting to worsen so it is important that students come with coats when arriving to make sure they start the day properly.

Parents Evening

Our Parents Evening will be taking place on Thursday 3rd December, more information will be sent out prior but we will be using the same format as before to take place online. The first progress reports will be sent out prior to the Evening.

Mr Lucas
Year 8 Director of Studies

Miss Birdsall
Year 8 Leader

YEAR 9

West Yorkshire Fire Service Assemblies

This week we hosted West Yorkshire Fire Service, who led assemblies with Year 9 and 10. Their key message was about the impact of hoax calls, anti-social behaviour and general safety in the community.

It was also a timely reminder around staying safe, in particular at this time of year and the importance of making sure houses have smoke alarms on all floors.

Thank you to the team from Stanningley Fire Station for their support.

Mr Sammons
Assistant Headteacher

Welcome back to a new half term! We hope you and your family had a restful, enjoyable, and safe break. As we move into this next half term, we are excited to see our Year 9 students continue their hard work and commitment to their learning.

Uniform Expectations

Please ensure your child arrives at school every day in full school uniform:

Blazer & Tie: Must be worn at all times unless told otherwise by staff.

Footwear: Plain black leather/leather-look shoes.

Outerwear: Coats should be worn over blazers outdoors and removed once inside the building.

Jewellery & Accessories: Only standard single stud earrings are permitted. We have seen an increase in excessive jewellery, necklaces and bracelets, please can we ask that these are not worn for school.

Mrs Mitchell
Year 9 Director of Studies

Mrs Swithenbank
Year 9 Leader

YEAR 10

West Yorkshire Fire Service Assemblies

This week we hosted West Yorkshire Fire Service, who led assemblies with Year 9 and 10. Their key message was about the impact of hoax calls, anti-social behaviour and general safety in the community.

It was also a timely reminder around staying safe, in particular at this time of year and the importance of making sure houses have smoke alarms on all floors.

Thank you to the team from Stanningley Fire Station for their support.

Mr Sammons
Assistant Headteacher

Year 10 have made an excellent effort in their assessments in the last week of the last half term. It has been particularly pleasing to see their positive attitudes, commitment and engagement. The first progress reports will be sent home during the latter half of this half term. I will contact parents and carers nearer the time.

Coursework and Deadlines

As coursework contributes towards students' overall grades in some subjects (see list below), it is essential that deadlines are met and that all work is completed to the best of their ability. Students should stay organised, manage their time effectively and act on feedback. I would advise having a conversation about any coursework over the weekend. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the relevant subject leader.

- Child Development BTEC- Mrs Boyes
- Construction BTEC - Miss Snaith
- Enterprise BTEC - Mrs Boyes

- Health & Social Care BTEC - Mrs Boyes
- Hospitality & Catering BTEC - Miss Snaith
- ICT BTEC - Mrs C Williams
- Media Cambridge National - Mr Sammons
- Music BTEC - Miss O'Gorman
- Performing Arts BTEC - Miss O'Gorman

Supporting Healthy Routines and Resilience
Good sleep and regular attendance are vital for learning and success. Please encourage your child to:

- Maintain a consistent bedtime and aim for 8–10 hours of sleep.
- Switch off phones and devices before bedtime.
- Develop positive morning routines to ensure they arrive at school on time.
- Show resilience and persevere, even when they feel tired or face challenges.
- Attend school regularly, unless genuinely too unwell to do so. Please contact school if a student will be absent.

Mr Syed
Year 10 Director of Studies

Miss Mathie
Year 10 Leader

YEAR 11

Leeds Apprenticeship Fair:
Following the success of this week's employment fair at Leeds Direct Arena, Leeds City Council will be hosting a further apprenticeship recruitment fair on Tuesday 9th February 2027 during National Apprenticeship Week. The event will be open 12-6pm with tickets available via the link below. I strongly encourage all students in Year 11 to 13 who are considering an apprenticeship for their post-16 and 18 destinations to attend.

https://www.firstdirectbankarena.com/events/detail/leeds-apprenticeship-recruitment-fair-2027

Miss Robinson
Careers & Progression Manager

Year 11 trial examinations begin on **Monday 9th November**, with the first examination taking place in the afternoon. There are a number of important core subject examinations taking place during the first week, so it is essential that students are well prepared and make the most of the time available to them.

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Please support us by ensuring that your child arrives at school **promptly for 8.30am each morning**. Arriving on time will give students the opportunity to get organised during form time, check their exam timetable, complete any last-minute revision and mentally prepare for the examinations ahead.

Exams this week:

- MFL exams
- English Language paper 1
- Combined Science x2 papers
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Computing
- IT
- History
- English Lit
- Maths x 2 papers

We want all students to feel calm, confident and ready to demonstrate their knowledge and hard work. Your support in ensuring they arrive on time, get enough sleep and have the correct equipment each day will make a real difference.

Miss Legg
Year 11 Director of Studies

Mrs Green
Year 11 Leader

SIXTH FORM

Welcome back to all our students.

Well done to everyone who completed their GCSE English Language and Maths exams this week.

Moving forward this term...

Year 13

Trial Exams: Monday 30th November
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. Today, during Form time, students were issued with the Trial Exam Timetable, and information has also been sent home to parents.

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UCAS Applications

UCAS applications remain of equal importance, and students should continue to prioritise them and make full use of the support available from their tutors and the Sixth Form team.

⭐ **Sixth Form Deadline: 4th December 2026** - This is our internal deadline for competitive applications. We strongly encourage students to submit by this date. Applications submitted at this point will be processed in good time, and students can begin receiving offers. Those who leave their application until the official January deadline may have to wait longer to hear back.

⭐ **UCAS Deadline: 13th January 2027** - This is the deadline for the majority of university courses for 2027 entry.

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

Year 12

Year 12 students have been completing their Enrichment forms and signing up for additional activities. These opportunities are a great way to deepen and extend their studies, build skills and confidence, and become more involved in the wider life of the school. Enrichment also strengthens future applications for university, apprenticeships and employment, giving students experiences to talk about in personal statements and interviews.

We would encourage all Year 12 students to choose activities they will enjoy and commit to them fully. Anyone who has not yet completed their Google form should do so as soon as possible, and students who would like advice on which activities suit them are welcome to speak to their tutor or a member of the Sixth Form team.

Careers (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.

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 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/1FAIpQLSfqtD3UYHPctaWe3EKPVdksUMr6LTT4yY8n6LLxe4eON0Ys1g/viewform

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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