



## PARENT & CARER WEEKLY BULLETIN

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2024

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### HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

It is a common issue that when schools return there are various minor bugs which are passed round. Staff are not immune to these either as I know myself this week! While it is important for students to rest and recover when they are genuinely unwell, it is equally important to differentiate between minor ailments and significant illnesses.

Coming to school even when not feeling entirely well can instil resilience and determination in our students. Minor ailments such as a slight headache or mild cold should not necessarily prevent a child from attending school. Of course, if your child is experiencing symptoms that may be contagious or severe, it is in the best interest of everyone to keep them at home until they are better.

Regular attendance not only helps in keeping up with the curriculum but also ensures that students do not miss out on valuable social interactions and the sense of community that our school provides. It is through consistent attendance that students build strong work ethics and develop the perseverance needed for future success.

It's important that we consider the long-term benefits of regular school attendance and encourage all children to attend school unless they are genuinely unwell. Should you have any concerns regarding your child's health and attendance, please do not hesitate to contact our school office for guidance.

**Mark McKelvie**  
Headteacher

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### GENERAL NOTICES

#### Absence from School

It is usually appropriate for parents and carers to send their children to school with mild respiratory illnesses; this would include general cold symptoms: a minor cough, runny nose or sore throat. It is no longer recommended that children and young people are routinely tested for COVID-19, unless directed to by a health professional.

If in doubt, we would ask that you send your child in to school. Please be assured that we will contact you if your child becomes too ill and needs to come home. For more information, please read the Attendance information on the school website.



## **PARENT & CARER WEEKLY BULLETIN**

We ask that you please support us in keeping absences to an absolute minimum.

Absence Team

### **Book Club - Starts Monday 23rd September**

Book club starts on Monday 23rd September. Book club will be held in the library from 15:00pm-16:00pm. Students must have permission from a parent/carer prior to attending. If a student is interested in joining, they must inform Ms Martin and she will make sure that a letter is sent home via Parentmail.

Ms Martin  
School Librarian

### **Duke of Edinburgh – Years 9, 10 and 11**

We are excited to announce that our students will have the opportunity to participate in the Duke of Edinburgh Award. This prestigious program encourages young people to develop essential life skills, confidence, and resilience through a range of activities, including volunteering, physical challenges, learning new skills, and expeditions. The award is recognised internationally and offers students a chance to grow both personally and socially, while gaining a valuable qualification for future education and career opportunities.

This year, Year 9 students will be able to complete the Bronze Award, Year 10 students the Silver Award, and Year 12 students the Gold Award.

After the half-term break, students will attend assemblies that will provide more information about the award and explain what is expected of them.

Miss Legg  
Year 11 Director of Studies

### **School Production – Annie**

Would your child like to be in the school production?

Rehearsals take place Tuesday 3:00pm-4:00pm and then Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday after October half term.

Show dates: 17th - 19th December

No audition required. Open to Year 7 - Year 13 students. Just turn up and have fun.

Meet outside the Performing Arts office.

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Any questions please talk to your Music or Drama teacher.

**Miss Wray**  
Subject Leader of Performing Arts

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### **Year 7**

#### **Parents Information Evening**

The Year 7 Parents Information Evening is on Thursday 26th September starting at 5pm. Please reply to the Parentmail form to confirm your attendance.

#### **PE Kit**

Just a reminder that students should not be coming in to school in their PE kit on PE days unless adjustments are in place and are agreed in school. Students will be asked to change into their uniform if they are turning up in PE kit.

#### **Planners and Knowledge Organisers**

Both planners and Knowledge Organisers are essential pieces of daily equipment. Students must make sure they are bringing them every day and being organised on an evening, packing their bags, so they know they have everything for the following day.

#### **Lockers**

All students who purchased a locker now have their keys. If you think you have paid for a locker and your child has not yet received their key please contact their Form Tutor.

Mrs Mitchell  
Year 7 Director of Studies

Mrs Swithenbank  
Year 7 Leader

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### **YEAR 8**

Year 8 have now completed their first full week and the majority have settled really well into the new school year. Their behaviour and attitude to learning has generally been positive. Their uniform has also been impressive, but I would like to point out that some of the skirts that girls are wearing are too short for school. Skirts need to be the Pudsey Grammar School pleated skirt.

## **PARENT & CARER WEEKLY BULLETIN**

### **Year 8 Parent Information Evening - 25th September 2024 – 5:00-6:00pm**

I wanted to highlight this upcoming event. It will be fantastic to welcome you back to the school building and meet you. I am looking forward to sharing with you my tips on how year 8 can be successful this year.

Mrs Kaye  
Year 8 Director of Studies

Miss Mathie  
Year 8 Leader

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## **YEAR 9**

We are now well into the term and the majority of Year 9 are getting on brilliantly and showing great application in lessons. The uniform standard has also generally improved and we really appreciate your support with this.

### **Detentions**

Detentions are now set on Arbor and they still take place the next day Monday-Thursday. The attendance has been inconsistent to this with a number of students then triggering the longer 90 minute detentions for missing it. If your child does get a detention, please support by talking to them and reminding them that they have one.

### **Parents Information Evening**

Another reminder that the Year 9 Parent Information Evening is on Tuesday 24th September. To confirm your attendance please reply to the form on Parentmail. If you cannot make it there will be information shared online to catch up.

Mr Lucas  
Year 9 Director of Studies

Mrs Green  
Year 9 Leader

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## **YEAR 10**

### **Parent Information Evening**

It was great meeting so many families at the Information Evening on Thursday and I hope you all found it helpful. The resources from the evening will be made available online in the section below:

<https://www.pudseygrammar.co.uk/year-7-11/year-10/>

## **PARENT & CARER WEEKLY BULLETIN**

A reminder of our communication policy:

Form Tutor - Non urgent minor communication, first contact

Year Leader - Urgent pastoral issues

Subject Leaders - Questions relating to a particular lesson/department area

Director of Studies - Questions relating to multiple lessons, revision and exams

If you are unsure and it is non urgent, let the Form Tutor know and we can move it to the right person.

We are looking forward to working with the year group and families over the next two years.

### **Incremental Improvements**

Our message to Year 10 students over the past few weeks has been that to thrive in their educational journey, students must cultivate a readiness to learn and embrace each day as an opportunity for growth. This mindset fosters resilience and encourages them to seek out daily incremental improvements, no matter how small. By focusing on progress rather than perfection, students can build confidence and develop a love for learning that enriches their lives. Each step forward, whether mastering a new concept or refining a skill, contributes to a solid foundation for future success, making the learning experience both rewarding and enjoyable. There have been many instances this week that have demonstrated a great potential in the year group. We look forward to supporting our students throughout their journey over the next two years.

Mr Syed  
Year 10 Director of Studies

Miss Exley  
Year 10 Leader

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## **YEAR 11**

### **Parent Information Evening**

Thank you for attending the Parent Information Evening on Wednesday. If you were unable to join us, the presentation and parent guide are now available on the school website.

Should you have any further questions, please feel free to get in touch.

### **Blackpool Pleasure Beach**

A quick reminder: the Blackpool Pleasure Beach trip is on 2nd October. We know the students are excited about it! However, we will be meeting with students who have low ATL (Attitude to Learning) scores to encourage improvement before the trip.



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To make payment for the trip, please check your ParentMail account. If you need any support please do let us know.

Miss Legg  
Year 11 Director of Studies

Miss Birdsall  
Year 11 Leader

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## SIXTH FORM

It was fantastic to meet with so many families this week at the Year 12 Parent Information Evening. Parents and carers were able to hear key messages that will support their child through the next academic year and meet their child's tutor.

Copies of the information presented have been sent home via email to all our families. If anyone would like any further information or to discuss an aspect of their child's education, please do not hesitate to contact the Sixth Form Team.

### **Year 13 Parent Information Evening - Monday 23rd September at 5:00pm (REMINDER)**

We would like all parents to attend this in-person event so we can keep you up to date with the plan for Year 13, how we are working to support your child to achieve their potential and to share some practical tips on how best to support your child in the year ahead.

We run this event every year and it always proves very popular with parents. We aim to make the evening's messages short, practical and informative.

The evening will cover:

- \*Our academic ambition
- \*School expectations and routines
- \*Revision strategies and study skills
- \*Guidance for next steps applications including university and apprenticeships

Please confirm your attendance by booking tickets using the link below. Up to two family members can attend the event, and students should also attend where possible.

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/pudsey-grammar-school/year-13-parent-information-evening/e-xjxyod>





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If you are unable to attend due to existing commitments but would like a follow up conversation please email Mrs Smith (Post 16 Director of Studies)

Mrs Smith - [l.smith@pudseygrammar.co.uk](mailto:l.smith@pudseygrammar.co.uk)

Mrs Smith  
Post 16 Director of Studies

Miss Hart  
Attendance and Pastoral Support

Miss Robinson  
Post 16 Administrator

Miss Kenny  
Careers and Enrichment Lead

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