



**PARENT & CARER
WEEKLY BULLETIN**
Friday 27th September 2024

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

You may know that the school has supported the Pudsey Community Project over recent years – I'm delighted to let you know that our Governors have agreed to begin a partnership with this local charity. This will provide opportunities for our students to learn about and support their work. Pudsey Community Project is a dedicated local charity committed to enhancing the well-being of the community by providing essential services and support to individuals and families in need. Their initiatives range from offering food assistance and emergency relief to providing social support services. By addressing both immediate needs and long-term development, Pudsey Community Project plays a vital role in fostering a stronger, more resilient community. Their unwavering dedication and comprehensive approach make them an invaluable partner in our collective effort to improve the lives of young people and their parents in our local community.

Mark McKelvie
Headteacher

GENERAL NOTICES

History Club – Years 7, 8 and 9

Discover the past and unlock history's greatest stories at the History Club! Join us every Tuesday of Week A from 3:00pm-4:00pm in Room 114 for engaging discussions, fun activities, and a chance to dive deep into the events and people that shaped our world.

Mr Garnett
Teacher of History

Car Park Closure

We have a Year 11 trip to Blackpool Pleasure Beach booked in for Wednesday 2nd October and in order to safely manage the departure from school, we will be closing the car park from 8.00am to 8.45am. The coaches are scheduled to arrive at school for 8.00am. This will allow the students and staff to safely board the coaches whilst also allowing sufficient space to manoeuvre safely around the turning circle for departure (we have had issues in the past when dealing with multiple coaches).

The coaches will leave as soon as possible after school has started and the roads are quieter. Parents/carers are therefore asked to note that the car park will be locked and not available at all for drop-offs during this time.



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If anyone requires assistance with parking for accessibility reasons, please contact reception to make arrangements.

Thank you for your understanding.

Finance Team

Exam Invigilator - Casual - £12.59 per hour

We are looking to appoint exceptional individuals who have excellent communication skills with both students and staff, are approachable, have superb time keeping skills and are able to follow instructions precisely. The Exam Invigilator role works as part of a tight knit team of professionals as directed by the Exams Officer to ensure exams are conducted in line with the Exam Board's strict regulations.

Please see the school website for further information.

The Recruitment Team

NO FEE SCHOOL UNIFORM - URGENT PLEA FOR UNWANTED, GOOD QUALITY UNIFORM & PE KIT

We are keen to get the uniform shop well stocked to enable our parents/carers to benefit from great quality uniform at no cost and encourage sustainability by limiting the amount of uniform going to landfill. We rely on the kind donations of our parents and carers to stock the uniform store.

We would be grateful if you could please donate any good quality uniform that you no longer require. We are reaching out to all our parents and carers to ask for ongoing donations to help make this project a success.

Donations – We would ask that uniform and PE items (including football boots) be handed in to Reception.

Thank you for your continued support.
The Office Team

House Competitions 2024/25

This week has seen the start of this year's House Competitions, as the Senior, Upper and Lower sectionals kicked off the fourth year of house events in style, with some very competitive dodgeball matches. Double champions Canopus started the week well by winning the Senior



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event, while Vega took the Uppers. Last year's champions Deneb took third and fifth and will want to get back to winning ways to reclaim the Victor Ludorum Cup!

The competitions for this academic year are attached and the calendar can also be found on the school website. Coming up over the next few weeks are netball, poetry, gaming and chess. Students should see their House Leader or Form Tutor if they would like to take part in any of the events. While we started with an impressive thirty competitions back in 2020, we now have forty weekly and ongoing competitions for students and staff to take part in. There really is something for everyone and we encourage all students to take part, make friends, learn new skills and have fun!

Regular updates will be posted in Parent Bulletin and on social media. We look forward to seeing which house takes the Victor Ludorum Cup this July!

https://drive.google.com/open?id=1GV_o_1nJ7p_7Rn_BOr4h2CoT76zB9O_z

School Meals - Information Regarding Peanut Allergies

Chartwells (our catering provider) are currently following guidance from the Food Standards Agency (FSA) with regards managing students with peanut allergies.

The FSA is advising people who have a nut allergy to avoid consuming foods that contain or may contain mustard, mustard powder or mustard flour because they may be contaminated with peanuts. As a result of this, Chartwells are currently reviewing their products and are only able to provide a very restricted option for any students with a known peanut allergy. This includes:

Breakfast - Toast with margarine

Lunch - Jacket potato with plain tuna, beans or cheese with a plain salad (no dressing) and fruit

We fully appreciate that this is an incredibly restricted offer for any students with peanut allergies and we are working with Chartwells to have a full menu offer available as soon as possible to all students.

Thank you for your support.

Mrs Byrne
Director of Operations



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Punctuality Reminder

Can we please remind parents and carers about the importance of arriving to school on time. As the inclement weather approaches, parents and students need to take into consideration how long the journey to school will take, particularly when the weather is poor and traffic may be heavier than usual. Arriving to school 5 minutes late each day of the academic year, results in 3 lost days of schooling. The school gates open at 8.20am, ready for students to start Form time at 8.30am every day. Arriving after the registers have closed will affect your child's attendance.

The Attendance Team

Nut Allergies

We have a number of students and staff in school who have a serious nut allergy. In some cases nuts do not even need to be ingested to cause anaphylactic reaction. These students and staff carry Auto-Adrenaline Injectors with them, but to keep the risk of exposure to nuts to a minimum wherever possible, could we please ask that students do not eat nuts or products containing nuts in school.

Mrs Marsh
First Aid Lead

Extra-Curricular Clubs – Ted Pugh

Thursday 26th September sees the launch of several new extra-curricular clubs, open for new and returning student and staff members. If a student cannot make it one week, as long as they have written permission to join, they are able to attend or register on any of the following weeks as we always encourage and welcome new members.

Letters were sent home on Monday 23rd September and we've already had a flood of responses so it should be an exciting year!!

Confirmation of clubs and times are below but please be aware that the school calendar may impact on future meeting dates; lists of these are available on the school calendar and will be posted on Google Classroom for club members, so please take note when the clubs will not be held when those dates are posted.

- * Robotics Club: Wednesday, 3-4pm, Room 011
- * Japanese Club: Thursday, 3-4:30pm, Room 011/151R
- * Strategy Club: Friday, 3-4pm (4:30pm for Year11+), meet on the Street



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Students without written consent will not be permitted to attend.

Mr Pugh
Teacher of Maths and Computing

Drinks Bottles

Please ensure your child brings a refillable drinks container with them to school and uses it throughout the day. Water stations are available on each floor, and students should refill their drinks container during social times.

Mrs Marsh
First Aid Lead

YEAR 7

Parent Information Evening

I would like to say a massive thank you to all that were able to attend the Parent Information Evening last night. It was great to see such high attendance and have the chance to meet and speak with so many parents and carers. If you were not able to attend, all of the information will be on the school website for you to access.

Student Login details

We are aware that the login details for Arbor and Educake are not yet working as hoped at this point. Educake details have been printed on stickers and will be given to students to be stuck in the planners in their next science lesson. Please be assured that students will not be sanctioned for any overdue homework as we are still working on resolving the issues with Arbor.

Mrs Mitchell
Year 7 Director of Studies

Mrs Swithenbank
Year 7 Leader

YEAR 8

It was lovely to see you all at the Parent Information Evening on Wednesday. If you were unable to attend, a presentation by myself and the Year 8 SLT Link Mrs Matthews, will be sent to parents by email next week. Form Tutors also completed their own sessions. They spoke about the weekly schedule that they follow in Form:-



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Monday - Guided reading
Tuesday - House Quiz
Wednesday - PSHE
Thursday - Assembly
Friday - Careers

There was also a focus on the use of social media and practical advice from CEOP. The majority of information the Form Tutors presented was based on an article named "Is your child ready for social media?" Even if you did attend the evening, please see the link to read in your own time as it contains many practical tips to help support you and your child navigate social media.

<https://www.ceopeducation.co.uk/parents/articles/is-my-child-ready-for-social-media/#:~:text=Talk%20honestly%20with%20your%20child,have%20any%20worries%20or%20problems.>

I believe most students in year 8 are now able to access Arbor and are able to view their homework. However, if your child is having any issues with logging on to Arbor, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Year 8 Leader

In Miss Mathie's absence, Miss Lavan will be covering as Year Leader for Year 8 if you have any concerns please contact her via the main office or via email at: c.lavan@pudseygrammar.co.uk

Mrs Kaye
Year 8 Director of Studies

Miss Mathie
Year 8 Leader

YEAR 9

Parents Information Evening

Thank you to everybody who came to the Parent Information Evening on Tuesday, it was great to see so many parents. I hope you found the evening informative about the changes to the school and our aims for the year. If you were unable to attend or just wanted any further clarification on the presentation or dates, everything will be added to the school website shortly.

Uniform

Student uniform has massively improved since last year and the Year 9 students move around the building looking smart.

Please note that students are allowed to wear black leather trainers but shoe tags must be removed from the laces, if they are still on students will have to change shoes.



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Mr Lucas
Year 9 Director of Studies

Mrs Green
Year 9 Leader

YEAR 10

Equipment and Uniform

The vast majority of students are fully prepared and ready for the day ahead. Please can I request that bags/pencil cases are checked and equipment is replaced when required. This is to help prevent lack of equipment disrupting progress in lessons. Please see the website for the full list and to view the stationary shop:

<https://www.pudseygrammar.co.uk/parent-information/uniform-and-equipment/>

If there are any issues or concerns with equipment or correct uniform, please contact your child's Form Tutor.

A Positive Approach

Earlier this week I paid a visit to a selection of lessons and was encouraged to see students engaged and working hard in lessons. A positive approach is exactly what is required over the next two years. I look forward to visiting further lessons over the course of this half term.

Mr Syed
Year 10 Director of Studies

Miss Exley
Year 10 Leader

YEAR 11

Blackpool

Our annual Year 11 trip to Blackpool Pleasure Beach will take place on Wednesday 2nd October. Students are permitted to wear their own clothes, but please ensure that their attire is sensible and suitable for keeping warm and dry in potentially wet weather. Students should arrive at school by 8:20am for registration in their usual Form groups, followed by a brief meeting in the Main Hall to go over the day's details.

Please note that Blackpool Pleasure Beach operates a cashless system, so students should plan accordingly. We will be providing packed lunches for FSM students, should they wish to take one.

We anticipate a return to school of 6:45pm. For students not attending the trip we have created a collapsed timetable which will be printed and shared with students. The school day will start and end at normal time for students not on the trip.



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Sixth Form Open Evening

We are excited to invite all Year 11 students and their families to our Pudsey Grammar Sixth Form Open Evening on Thursday 17th October 2024, from 5:00pm to 7:00pm. This is a fantastic opportunity for students to explore the wide range of A-Level and vocational courses we offer, meet subject teachers, and learn more about life in our Sixth Form. Our staff will be available to answer any questions, provide insights into future career paths, and explain the support available during this crucial stage of education.

To secure your place, please follow the booking link below:

www.ticketsource.co.uk/pudsey-grammar-school

Miss Legg
Year 11 Director of Studies

Miss Birdsall
Year 11 Leader

SIXTH FORM

Thank you to all our families who attended the Year 13 Parent Information Evening this week. Parents and carers were able to hear key messages that will support their child through the next academic year and meet their child's Form 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.

Here is a reminder of all the important dates for both Year 12 and Year 13 students over the next academic year

Year 13

w/c Monday 14th October Assessment Week (in class)

w/c Monday 21st October Data Capture 1 ATL only

w/c Monday 18th November Trial Exam Week 1 (Main Hall)

w/c Monday 9th December Data Capture 2 followed by Parents Evening Thursday 9th January

w/c Monday 6th January External Unit Exams (Applied Courses)

w/c Monday 17th February

February Half Term (subject specific coursework/revision)

w/c Monday 10th March - Trial Exam Week 2 (Main Hall)

w/c Monday 24th March - Data Capture 3 followed by Exam Success Evening Thursday 27th March

w/c Monday 7th April Easter Holidays (subject specific coursework/revision)

w/c Tuesday 6th May A Level Summer Exam Period Begins

Friday 23rd May Final Assembly and Inflatables (tbc)

Thursday 26th June Prize Giving and Prom (tbc)



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Thursday 14th August A Level results day

Year 12

w/c Monday 14th October - Assessment Week 1 (in class)

w/c Monday 21st October - Data Capture 1 ATL only

w/c Monday 10th February - Assessment Week 2 (in class)

w/c Monday 3rd March - Data Capture 2 followed by Parents Evening Thursday 3rd April

w/c Monday 30th June - Year 12 Trial Exams (Main Hall)

w/c Monday 7th July - Data Capture 3

This week, during assembly we launched our Sixth Form enrichment programme, which offers a wide range of opportunities for students outside of the classroom. We would like all students to take part in an activity of their choice to broaden their experiences, and if there is something they would like to be involved in that we do not already offer...let us know!

Mrs Smith
Post 16 Director of Studies

Miss Hart
Attendance and Pastoral Support

Miss Robinson
Post 16 Administrator

Miss Kenny
Careers and Enrichment Lead
