

**PARENT & CARER  
WEEKLY BULLETIN**  
Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2024

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## HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

As we are now into the month of October, we are celebrating Black History Month in the school which provides us a dedicated time to acknowledge and appreciate the profound contributions of Black individuals throughout history. It is a period of reflection and education that enriches our understanding of the diverse cultural tapestry that binds our society. By exploring the achievements and struggles of Black pioneers, activists, and leaders, we foster a more inclusive and empathetic environment for our students. This month serves as a powerful reminder that the history we teach and the values we instill must be representative of all voices and experiences.

**Mark McKelvie**  
Headteacher

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## GENERAL NOTICES

### Training Day 2 – Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Please be aware that we will be holding a Training Day for staff on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2024 and the school will be closed to students on this day. The school will re-open as normal on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2024.

### Launch of The Pudsey Grammar School Debating Society

Does your child love to challenge ideas, think critically, and speak up? Next Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October sees the launch of Pudsey Grammar School's Debating Society – the perfect platform for your child to hone their public speaking skills, build confidence, and engage in exciting debates with fellow students.

#### What to Expect:

Thought-provoking discussions on current topics

Fun and interactive debating competitions

Opportunities to improve your persuasive speaking and logical reasoning

A chance to represent the school in regional and national debates!

A chance to meet other students from around the school and listen to their ideas.

Launch Date: 8<sup>th</sup> October (Next Tuesday) Time: 3:05pm-4:00pm Location: Room 211

Whether a confident speaker or just starting out, the Debating Society is for ALL students from Year 7 to 6<sup>th</sup> Form to enjoy.

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Don't miss out – Make your voice heard.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Mr S Connor  
KS5 & Rhetoric Lead

### **Music at Pudsey Grammar School**

We have had an excellent start in music so far this year. We already have a number of students making use of the department and attending both instrumental lessons and extra-curricular activities.

I wanted to make you aware of some of the opportunities we have in relation to music at Pudsey Grammar School as we would love as many students as possible to be making music with us.

### **Instrumental lessons**

All students were told in their first music lesson about the opportunity to study individual instruments with us in addition to their curriculum learning. The instruments we currently offer include vocals, piano, drums and guitar.

If there is another instrument your child is interested in learning, please do tell them to come and see me about this and if there is sufficient demand, we can look at putting tuition in place. There is a charge for these lessons, but we can support with providing instruments for the students to learn on.

### **Extra-curricular**

#### **School band**

We are relaunching our school band this year and have already had an excellent uptake in terms of students attending. We are keen to have as many students on board with this as possible.

Open to anyone who plays any musical instrument.  
Thursdays 3-4 in music room 232

#### **Vocal group**

Our vocal group for this first term is being led by our excellent singing teacher and we have once again had an excellent response to this.

Open to anyone who enjoys and has an interest in singing  
Wednesdays 8:30 in music room 232  
This will move to Tuesdays after school in January



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### Music practice rooms

We have practice spaces available in the department for students who may wish to come and make use of these during social times or after school.

Students need to speak with Miss O’Gorman about the use of these rooms as there are times when these are needed for lessons, but if students do wish to come and do some additional practice, or play alongside other students, they are very welcome to do so.

If you require any further information about any of the opportunities detailed above, please email Miss O’Gorman - [logorman@pudseygrammar.co.uk](mailto:logorman@pudseygrammar.co.uk).

We look forward to welcoming more students into the department.

Miss O’Gorman  
Subject Leader of Music

### Absence Reporting

Can we remind parents/carers that any correspondence in regards to absence from school must be communicated with the Attendance Team, whether this be a full day or an appointment during school hours. There are three ways to contact us:

Telephone: 0113 386 9122  
Email: [attendance@pudseygrammar.co.uk](mailto:attendance@pudseygrammar.co.uk)  
Through the Arbor app.

We do require an update on each day of absence and prior to any medical appointments along with supporting evidence. Any absences without a reason are followed up with a daily text message and phone call home. In instances where there is continued absence or concerns, we will make a home visit to establish any barriers to attendance. If you have any attendance concerns, please contact us as soon as possible through the aforementioned communication channels.

### Attendance Expectations

Following the Training Day on Monday 7th October, we expect all students to attend school on time as normal for the remainder of the week. This is also the expectation following school trips and any educational activities.

Thank you for your continued support.

Attendance Team

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### **House netball**

This week has seen students competing in house netball and, despite a rainy start to the week, all matches have been able to go ahead with a large number of students across the school taking part.

On Wednesday, the upper sectional (Year 9 & 10) were involved in a fiercely competitive tournament which resulted in a final between Arcturus and Sirius. Despite some resolute defending by Sirius, the slick passing and clinical shooting by Arcturus were enough to see them end up as victors.

At the time of writing, 40 students are involved in the lower sectional competition (Year 7 & 8) the quality of play has been really impressive and the players are enjoying the games in the warm October sunshine. Results of the lower sectional will be shared in next week's bulletin.

Mr Robottom  
House Leader

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## **Year 7**

### **Arbor**

Please let Form Tutors know if any students are not able to log in to Arbor still. The majority of Year 7 are up and running with this now, but if this is not the case then please send an email to your child's Form Tutor.

### **Planners**

Please ensure that students are coming to school with planners every day. The sanction for not having their planner is a detention and we are obviously keen to avoid this.

### **Residential**

Letters will be going out via Parentmail next week with information about the Year 7 residential to Newby Wiske Hall. Please make sure you are checking for this as it will be on a first come first served basis and only 150 places are available.

Mrs Mitchell  
Year 7 Director of Studies

Mrs Swithenbank  
Year 7 Leader

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### **YEAR 8**

I would like to send a reminder of the Parental Communication policy that we have at Pudsey Grammar School. In the first instance, please contact your child's Form Tutor. If you are not aware of who that is please contact me and I can send their information across to you.

In the case of a single subject matter, please contact the subject leader. All of the subject leaders' email addresses are on the school website. If there is an issue with several subjects please contact myself. In the case of a pastoral matter please contact the Form Tutor.

All staff have 48 hours to respond to email enquiries.

Mrs Kaye  
Year 8 Director of Studies

Miss Mathie  
Year 8 Leader

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### **YEAR 9**

#### **Parents Information Evening**

All of the information, including the presentations, should be on the website under Year 9 shortly.

#### **Arbor**

Following on from conversations I had on the Parents Information Evening regarding issues with Arbor, we are finding solutions to many of the problems. The overdue messages on homework should now be resolved going forward. If you are having trouble logging on, the school website has extensive instructions to help you.

<https://www.pudseygrammar.co.uk/parent-information/parental-communicationarborbulletinsletters-home/>

Mr Lucas  
Year 9 Director of Studies

Mrs Green  
Year 9 Leader

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### **YEAR 10**

#### **Establishing Habits for Excellence**

The key message for students in Year 10 has been to establish good habits and routines that will support their journey throughout Key Stage 4. The next two years will be challenging for

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a number of reasons and one way to lessen the stress students feel is to establish an effective routine inside and outside of school. It would be beneficial to work out a plan or timetable at home to support effective and high quality homework but also for students who will be submitting coursework this year.

For students who have chosen vocational subjects, I will be meeting them to ensure they are aware of the demands, expectations and deadlines. It is vital that students are engaging at a high level as coursework submissions will contribute to a percentage of their overall grade. If you would like further information on the specifics, please contact the subject leader.

### **Positive Healthy Lifestyles**

Positive lifestyle choices include:

- Taking part regularly in physical activity
- Eating a balanced diet
- Getting sufficient sleep
- Balancing school/work and other commitments
  
- Making time for relaxation and leisure pursuits
- Seeking information about or support for concerns, eg friends, family, teacher

A reminder that energy drinks are not allowed in school and that they will be confiscated if seen. We do run a Breakfast Club, if students would like to attend, please let us know.

Numerous studies show an association between regular consumption of energy drinks and various adverse health effects, including:

Stress  
Aggression  
High blood pressure  
Increased obesity  
Type 2 diabetes  
Poor sleep  
Nausea and stomach irritation  
Headaches and eye strain  
Dental erosion  
Mental health issues

For further reading, please visit the UKActive website below:

<https://www.ukactive.com/blog/energy-drinks-and-young-people/>

Mr Syed  
Year 10 Director of Studies

Miss Exley  
Year 10 Leader

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### **YEAR 11**

#### **Year 11 Rewards Trip to Blackpool Pleasure Beach**

Year 11 were absolutely brilliant during their rewards trip to Blackpool Pleasure Beach! Their behaviour was exemplary, and to top it off, we even brought the sunshine with us! It was a fantastic day, and we are proud of how well our students represented the school.

#### **In-Classroom Assessment Week Starting 21st October**

A reminder that the in-classroom assessment week will begin on 21st October. To support students in their preparation, departments have uploaded revision-based homework on Arbor. If students are unsure about any of the topics being assessed, we encourage them to speak to their teachers for guidance.

#### **Sixth Form Open Evening - 17th October**

Our Sixth Form Open Evening is on 17th October! This is a wonderful opportunity for students and parents to see what our Sixth Form has to offer. We invite you to come along, meet the staff, and explore the diverse range of subjects and opportunities available.

Miss Legg  
Year 11 Director of Studies

Miss Birdsall  
Year 11 Leader

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### **SIXTH FORM**

#### **Important Dates**

##### **Year 12**

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

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

##### **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

##### **Year 13 UCAS Reminders**

UCAS deadlines are quickly approaching! Please take note of these important dates:

8th October: Internal UCAS deadline for Oxbridge, Medicine, Veterinary, and Dentistry applications

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15th October: UCAS Early Entry Deadline.

6th December: Internal UCAS application deadline.

29th January: UCAS Final Deadline.

UCAS information booklets are available from the Careers office. For any questions, contact Miss Kenny or Miss Robinson.

### **Opportunities**

Females in STEM Careers Event with Amazon

Tuesday, 8th October, 5:00pm - 6:30pm

Are you a female student in Years 11, 12, or 13 with a passion for STEM subjects? Do not miss this incredible opportunity to explore careers in digital, technology, and engineering with Amazon! This virtual event will give you valuable insights into career paths as a global leader in innovation.

Event Details:

Date: Tuesday, 8th October

Time: 5:00pm - 6:30pm

Format: Virtual (Zoom)

During this event, you'll hear from women working in STEM roles at Amazon and learn how you can carve out your own exciting career path in the field. Whether you're interested in data, business analysis, technology, or engineering, this is a fantastic chance to network and gain insight into a world-leading company. Register here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/STEM-Amazon>

Leeds Jobs Fair

Wednesday, 9th October, 10:00am - 1:00pm

The Leeds Jobs Fair is a great opportunity to connect with a wide range of companies and explore future job opportunities. This event is being held at the First Direct Arena on Wednesday, 9th October from 10:00am to 1:00pm. Why attend?

\*Networking Opportunities: Engage with recruiters, hiring managers, and company representatives.

\*Direct Interaction: Learn about company cultures, job roles, and requirements first hand.

\*Explore Career Options: Discover opportunities across a variety of industries.

\*Face-to-Face Impressions: Make a lasting impression with potential employers.

\*Access Hidden Opportunities: Gain access to jobs not advertised online.





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\*Market Insights: Learn about in-demand skills, salary trends, and hiring expectations.

\*Professional Development: Get advice on CV writing and interview skills.

Don't miss out on this fantastic opportunity to take the next step towards your future career!

University of Leeds Open Day

Saturday, 19th October, 9:00am - 5:00pm

If you are considering attending the University of Leeds, do not forget to attend their Open Day on Saturday 19th October. This event is a great chance to explore the campus, learn more about courses, and speak to current students and staff. It runs from 9:00am to 5:00pm.

Best wishes,

Mrs Smith  
Post 16 Director of Studies

Miss Hart  
Attendance and Pastoral Support

Miss Robinson  
Post 16 Administrator

Miss Kenny  
Careers and Enrichment Lead