

**PARENT & CARER
WEEKLY BULLETIN**
Friday 18th October 2024

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

This is a long half term for staff and students but I have been impressed at the sustained effort everyone is making. The staff were in yesterday evening to showcase our Sixth Form to prospective students. The evening was excellent and the feedback from students and their parents was extremely positive.

Our students have been doing extremely well too. As of this week, they have earned 958,075 Attitude to Learning points, which is staggering in nearly 7 weeks of school. At some point next week, we will cross the 1,000,000 ATL point threshold. This reflects the fact that the vast majority of students attend school and make a good effort both in and out of their lessons every single day. You can check the ATL points of your own child (along with most other aspects such as homework) using the Arbor app.

A key part of our new behaviour system is making sure that we recognise and reward the significant number of our students who do well every single day. We are going to do this every half term so watch out for various rewards messages which we will be sending out after the half term holiday.

Mark McKelvie
Headteacher

GENERAL NOTICES

Reminder – half term break

A reminder to parents and carers that the school will close on Friday 25th October 2024 for the half term break. We will re-open on Monday 4th November 2024 at the usual time.

Ms Frost
PA to the Headteacher

Administration of Medication in School

Parents/carers are asked to note the procedures for the administration of medication in school. It is crucial that the following is adhered to in order to ensure the safety of all students in school. Please contact school if you have any questions in relation to the management of your child's medical needs.

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If your child needs to take medication during the school day, then a "Parental Agreement to Administer Medicine" form must be completed and signed when handing medication over.

This is in line with the school policy (which can be found in the "Supporting Children/Young Persons with Medical Conditions Policy which is available in full on the school website).

The following is an extract from the policy which outlines the process for circumstances where school will work with parents/carers to evaluate whether a student can carry their own medication:

"4.3 Self-Management

We will allow and encourage children and young people who are competent to do so, to manage their own medication. This will be based on discussions with the child / young person and their parents / carers and the relevant Year Leader. Specific written consent from parents / carers will still be required. Where necessary we will supervise the child or young person whilst they are taking it. Our school allows the following medication / medical equipment to be carried by our children and young people where it is deemed they are competent, and it is safe to do so:

- Asthma inhalers
- Auto Injection devices
- Allergy medication
- Diabetes devices / insulin

Paracetamols and other medication must be handed in to the Medical Office along with a completed consent form. Paracetamols and other medication will not be administered without a completed consent form. "

No child or young person under the age of 16 will be given Aspirin or medicines containing Ibuprofen unless prescribed by a doctor.

Mrs Byrne
Director of Operations

School production

Would your child like to be in the school production?

Rehearsals take place Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. 3.00pm-4.00pm (although all cast members are not needed every night. Check the time table for details).

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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.

Any questions please talk to your Music or Drama teacher.

Miss Wray
Subject Leader of Performing Arts

House competitions

Last week we held the poetry by heart competition and there were some excellent compositions as well as confident performances. The top three from each sectional were: Lower: Sirius, Canopus, Libertas. Uppers: Libertas, Arcturus, Deneb. Seniors: Canopus, Sirius, Polaris.

This week, we are hosting the first of several 'gaming' competitions and have kicked off with the popular card game of Uno. The competition has been fierce and several rounds were played due to the numbers of students who wanted to take part. At the time of writing, the lowers had completed their competition and scores were being tallied. A full set of results will appear in next week's bulletin and on plasma screens around school.

The final house competition of the half term is chess on Tuesday 22nd October. We are looking forward to lowers, uppers and seniors battling it out to see who will be chess champions. In the first week after half term, the table tennis competition will be running and students should sign up for both of these competitions through their tutor.

Mr Robottom
House Leader

Black History Month

Every October we join in with communities and schools across the country to recognise Black History month. This year the theme is on "Reclaiming Narratives". As a school, we have recognised Black History in a variety of ways. During Form time we have been looking at historical figures from different eras of History, whose Narrative may have not always been shared as it should have been. Subjects have also been looking at different people in their specialism and celebrate their involvement in our history and society. Next week we will conclude our celebrations with assemblies on the theme of Reclaiming Narratives.

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Cycle Safety

It is great that many of our students like to cycle to school and we want to encourage as much active travel as possible.

We provide bike storage facilities at school and it is important that students bring their own bike lock to store these safely.

As we approach the winter months please ensure that if your child is cycling to school they take appropriate measures to be safe on the roads.

Riders should:

- Always wear a helmet.
- Wear bright clothing, especially in the darker winter months.
- Use lights when cycling in darkness or when visibility is poor.

Southroyd Primary School - Book Trail

Please find details via the link below of a local Book Trail event being hosted by Southroyd Primary School on Saturday 26th October.

Southroyds school and parents association are also holding a 'making day' to paint and prepare for the event this Saturday (19th) 10-4pm which students can attend to support the event.

https://drive.google.com/open?id=1oSNGz-sS-maoBD5RC_kt_E5gkRSwOILq

Mr Sammons
Assistant Headteacher

Year 7

Restart a Heart

Year 7 students took part in the Restart a Heart campaign with the Yorkshire Ambulance Service at school this week. Here they learnt a valuable life skill and important lifesaving information about CPR. I am happy to say that Year 7 engaged really well with these sessions and conducted themselves brilliantly throughout.

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Student Council

This week, in assembly, Year 7 were given information about joining Student Council. The Student Council attended the Eco-Council event in conjunction with Leeds City Council, they play an integral part in the school Open Evenings, support the Pudsey Community Project and are involved in the process when we interview for new members of staff. Students should speak to Mrs Swithenbank and complete an application form by 11th November if they are interested in joining the Student Council. This is a really great opportunity for students who want to become more involved in school ventures.

Detentions

Please can we ask that you regularly check Arbor with your children so they are aware if they have any detentions to sit. We have an increasing number of students who are failing to attend detentions because they were not aware they had been set. All of the information will be on Arbor regarding detentions and the dates they have been set.

Mrs Mitchell
Year 7 Director of Studies

Mrs Swithenbank
Year 7 Leader

YEAR 8

Over the following weeks core subjects have been completing assessments in lessons. English have been completing descriptive writing, and maths have completed assessments on multiplying, dividing and fractions.

Science are completing assessments on Thursday 24th October in class. They are going to be assessed on topics they learnt in Year 7.

The topics are cells, reproduction, environment, elements, compounds, mixtures, particles, energy, acids and alkalis.

Please see the link below to access Year 7 Knowledge Organisers. This should help support your child with their revision.

<https://www.pudseygrammar.co.uk/curriculum/knowledge-organisers/>

Mrs Kaye
Year 8 Director of Studies

Miss Mathie
Year 8 Leader

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YEAR 9

Revision

As we are getting towards the end of the half term, a lot of subjects will be having assessments for their topics. Revision will be set as homework and it is important students use this and all of the resources given to them to help retain everything they have learnt. If this habit is created early, it will make everything easier in the future. These assessments will help inform the first Data capture point which is at the end of November.

Extra curricular

In assembly students were told about the offerings to them within the Music department. There are groups as well as individual lessons they can access. We also have a huge amount of sports clubs, House competitions and strategy club. Please encourage students to take part in things they enjoy as it will really help enrichen the school experience. If students need any clarification get them to ask their form tutors.

Mr Lucas
Year 9 Director of Studies

Mrs Green
Year 9 Leader

YEAR 10

Year 10 Assessment Week - W/C 11th November

As mentioned last week, Year 10 will carry out in class assessments across their subjects. In order to help student prepare for this, during Form time this week, tutors have discussed two useful techniques - Mind Maps and Flash Cards. Please see the resources below to support students using these techniques at home.

I will also be rewarding effective revision during assemblies, students will be able to show their tutors their revision mind maps and flash cards. These will then be shared with me a reward will be given to students - I'm looking forward to seeing the great revision students will carry out over the next few weeks!

<https://bit.ly/PGSflashcards>
<https://bit.ly/PGSmindmaps>

If there are any questions, students can ask their class teachers or you can contact the Subject Leader for the department.

Mr Syed
Year 10 Director of Studies

Miss Exley
Year 10 Leader

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YEAR 11

Next week, our Year 11 students will be completing in-lesson assessments. These short assessments will cover snippets of GCSE content and serve as a helpful indicator of how students are currently performing. As mentioned at the recent Parent Information Evening, we expect students to show progress from this point onwards in Year 11. In previous years, we have seen students improve by 1 or 2 grades, and we hope that this will be a valuable opportunity for them to see what lies ahead.

It's been a long half term for Year 11, so we hope they have a well-deserved rest over the break and come back refreshed for the lead-up to Christmas.

Thank you to everyone who attended our Post-16 Open Evening on Thursday. It was fantastic to see so many students interested in staying on at our Sixth Form, studying with teachers they know and enrolling in courses that engage them. If you have any questions or were unable to attend, please feel free to get in touch with either j.legg@pudseygrammar.co.uk or j.smith@pudseygrammar.co.uk.

Miss Legg
Year 11 Director of Studies

Miss Birdsall
Year 11 Leader

SIXTH FORM

Important Dates

Year 12

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

Year 13

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

Post 18 Discussions

During Form this week, Year 13 students have been discussing their next steps. We are really pleased that so many students have a clear focus (and a plan!) of what they would like their next steps to be. Many students have started their UCAS applications, whilst others have been researching different careers and employment.

Here is a reminder of the UCAS deadlines we are working towards



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- **Friday 6th December (internal deadline)
- **Wednesday 29th January (UCAS deadline)

Students can access support with their applications and personal statements at the drop-in that takes place every Wednesday in P16 Study 3.00-4.00pm

Year 13 Trial Exam Week Monday 18th November

Year 13 students are also preparing for their trial exams across all subjects. Our primary focus in tutorial and assembly is to encourage effective planning and revision. The exam timetable will be available for students and parents next week to support preparation.

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