



**PARENT & CARER  
WEEKLY BULLETIN**  
Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2025

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## HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

Happy new year to you all. I hope you have all had a good Christmas and I want to take this opportunity to wish you and your families all the best for 2025.

It has been a challenging week with the severe temperatures we have experienced but I am pleased that we managed to stay open for the majority of this week. Pudsey is significantly more elevated than the rest of Leeds (600 feet above sea level compared to 200 feet) and as a result the snow and ice here can be significant and also lasts much longer than the rest of the city. The biggest issue for a school like ours is ensuring that we have enough staff in the building to safely open. Our staff have made excellent efforts this week to ensure that we can open from 9.30am each day. Our Mitie site team have done a fantastic job to ensure that there are sufficient footpaths which are gritted regularly on the school site.

We also liaised directly with Leeds City Council Director of Highways to ensure that Mount Pleasant Road was gritted frequently.

Thankfully these extreme temperatures will ease by the start of next week, so we expect to be open as normal on Monday morning.

Thank you once again for your support and understanding.

**Mark McKelvie**  
Headteacher

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## GENERAL NOTICES

### **Duke Of Edinburgh – Years 9, 10 and 12**

All students who have signed up to complete the Bronze, Silver or Gold award must attend a compulsory training session on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January 3:15pm-4:15pm in the main hall. During this session students will: enroll onto 'eDofE' and upload details for their volunteering, skill and physical sections. Students will also form walking groups.

If your child is unable to attend please let us know as soon as possible and we will be able to provide them with their log on details and place them in a walking group.



## **PARENT & CARER WEEKLY BULLETIN**

Additionally, if you have made your deposit via Parentmail but not yet returned the medical and enrolment form please can this be done before Tuesday 14th.

Miss Legg  
Year 11 Director of Studies

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### **Year 7**

#### **Welcome back**

Happy New Year and welcome back to all our Year 7 students. It is not the first week back that we anticipated, but Year 7 have come back showing brilliant resilience and a great attitude to starting their second term at PGS.

#### **Form time**

This week will be checking equipment and making sure that everyone is prepared for their lesson this term. Each day in Form time students will be having equipment checks with their Form Tutors, we will be checking with students that they have everything they need for their lessons and where possible we can provide them with any missing pieces. Please could we ask that you support this at home by checking in with your children and helping replace any missing or lost equipment where possible too.

#### **Residential**

This term more information will be coming out regarding the residential trip in summer. Thank you to everyone who has been making their payments towards the trip, if there are any concerns with the payment plan please do not hesitate to contact myself or Mrs Swithenbank. If your child has a place on the trip and no longer want to attend, please let us know as soon as possible as there is a waiting list of interested students.

Mrs Mitchell  
Year 7 Director of Studies

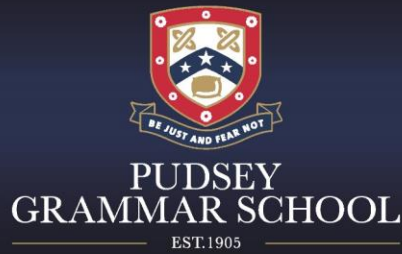
Mrs Swithenbank  
Year 7 Leader

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### **YEAR 8**

Welcome back! I hope you and your families had a wonderful Christmas and New Year.

On the first day back, our Year 8 students were greeted with an inspiring workshop delivered by an external company called Humanutopia. The workshop focused on empowering young



## **PARENT & CARER WEEKLY BULLETIN**

people to make positive changes in their lives, and we were incredibly proud of how fantastically all the students engaged with the session.

Throughout the week, students have been completing in-class assessments. Subject teachers have informed students about the schedule and topics for these assessments. In the event that any assessments needed to be rescheduled due to adverse weather conditions, students will be promptly informed of the revised dates.

Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to a successful term ahead.

Mrs Kaye  
Year 8 Director of Studies

Miss Mathie  
Year 8 Leader

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## **YEAR 9**

We want to welcome all of Year 9 back and hope they had a great holiday. Obviously, this week's weather has provided a huge challenge but it has been great to see so many of the year navigate the conditions and not allow it to distract them from their learning. Hopefully the weather will improve after the weekend, and we see a return to normality. When conditions do improve, we want to stress the importance of keeping the uniform standards high and bringing all their equipment to school, including a reading book.

Mr Lucas  
Year 9 Director of Studies

Mrs Green  
Year 9 Leader

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## **YEAR 10**

Welcome back to Year 10 students.

We will provide news and updates in next week's bulletin.

Mr Syed  
Year 10 Director of Studies

Miss Exley  
Year 10 Leader

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## **PARENT & CARER WEEKLY BULLETIN**

### **YEAR 11**

#### **Pudsey Grammar Sixth Form Open Morning**

For parents who were unable to attend our recent Sixth Form Open Evenings, we are pleased to announce that we will be holding a Sixth Form Open Morning on Thursday, 30th January from 8:30am to 10:00am.

This event will include:

- A talk by our Director of Sixth Form.
- A guided tour of our facilities.
- The opportunity to meet and chat with our student ambassadors.

We encourage you to come along and learn more about what Pudsey Grammar Sixth Form has to offer.

To attend, please register via [www.ticketsource.co.uk/pudsey-grammar-school](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/pudsey-grammar-school)

We look forward to seeing you there!

We hope you had a wonderful Christmas, a happy New Year, and enjoyed the bonus snow day! This half term is an important and busy one for Year 11 as they prepare for their mock exams, starting on the 13th of January.

Here are some key details:

- Morning exams begin promptly at 9:00am, with the bag drop open at 8:20am when students arrive at school. All morning exams will finish before break.
- Afternoon exams will start at 11:50am. Students will need to put their bags in the bag drop room during break time. All afternoon exams will finish in time for lunch.
- If any student has a clash of exams, alternative arrangements will be made for them to complete their papers.
- Students with access arrangements will have their arrangements in place for all exams.

Next week's core exams include:

- Biology
- English Language Paper 1



## **PARENT & CARER WEEKLY BULLETIN**

- Maths Foundation (Calculator)
- Maths Higher (Non-Calculator)
- Chemistry

Next week's option exams include:

Drama, Computing, Religious Education, Spanish, Food Technology, Geography, Music, IT, Health and Social Care, Mandarin, and Sports Science.

All students were provided with an exam timetable before Christmas. If their timetable has been misplaced, we will be happy to print a replacement. Personalised timetables will also be supplied to students so they can see their seats in advance.

Miss Legg  
Year 11 Director of Studies

Miss Birdsall  
Year 11 Leader

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## **SIXTH FORM**

First Week Back – January 2025

### **Happy New Year!**

We hope you and your family have had a restful break. As we begin the new term, we'd like to thank you for your continued support, especially during the icy conditions this week.

### **Congratulations and Good Luck**

A big well done to all Post-16 students who have sat external exams this week. Their dedication and focus have been impressive.

Good luck to those with external exams next week. Please continue to encourage your child to prepare thoroughly and seek support from their teachers if needed.

### **Upcoming Events**

Geography Field Trip

Date: Tuesday, 14th January

Students involved in this trip should ensure they are fully prepared and have the necessary materials as instructed by their teachers.

Duke of Edinburgh Training Session

Date: Tuesday, 14th January

Time: 3:15–4:15 PM

Location: Main Hall



## **PARENT & CARER WEEKLY BULLETIN**

This compulsory session is for students enrolled in the Bronze, Silver, or Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award. During this session, students will:

- Enroll onto the 'eDofE' platform.
- Upload details for their volunteering, skill, and physical sections.
- Form their walking groups in preparation for the expedition phase.
- Please ensure your child attends this important session.

Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to a productive term ahead!

Mrs Lea  
Acting 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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