



**PARENT & CARER
WEEKLY BULLETIN**
Friday 17th January 2025

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

I met with Rachel Reeves MP earlier today. This is the first time we have met since Ms Reeves was appointed Chancellor of the Exchequer and the funding for our Sixth Form building project was withdrawn by the Department for Education. Ms Reeves explained that one of the main issues facing the current Government was unfunded spending commitments made under the previous administration. We discussed the challenges facing schools at the moment and the conversation was a productive one. Ms Reeves is aware that our school is extremely popular, and I am looking forward to working with her over the coming years ahead to further develop our facilities.

Ms Reeves has invited me and two of our Year 11 students down to London later this spring where we will be given a tour of Parliament, and we will then visit 11 Downing Street. Ms Reeves also offered to talk to our Sixth Form students and visit the school for a tour.

We have always taken pride in having good relationships with our local MPs so I was pleased that despite the recent setback regarding the Sixth Form building, my meeting with Rachel Reeves was a productive one.

The figures for the applications for Year 7 starting secondary school in September were released recently and we remain extremely heavily oversubscribed with over 800 applications in total for 215 places in Year 7 this September. Out of these a total of 353 applications made us their first choice, which is the highest this has ever been. We are pleased that our school remains extremely popular in our local community.

Mark McKelvie
Headteacher

GENERAL NOTICES

Free School Meals

Please find below link to a letter regarding Free School Meals (FSM). It provides details on how to check if your child might be eligible for FSM and how to apply.

If your child is already entitled, the letter also explains how FSM works and highlights additional benefits, such as Healthy Holidays and free school travel.



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Please take a moment to read the attached letter for more information.

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1vSyKswtB5xisIPKEqRmvYFSTMqUOnYOo>

Mr Bassett
Assistant Headteacher

Extra-Curricular club January to April 2025

The PE extra-curricular timetable is starting again the week commencing the 20th January, (Basketball and badminton will start week commencing 27th January).

The clubs will run from 3pm until 3.50pm, please make sure that consent has been given through Arbor (the consent form was sent out in September 2024).

Tuesday: Football and Rugby on the school fields
Wednesday: Badminton and basketball
Thursday: Netball (all year groups)

Mr McCroakam
Subject Leader of PE

Music extra-curricular

A reminder of the great extra-curricular opportunities available in the music department.

School band

Our school band is open to all students who play a musical instrument. We already have some very talented students who are enjoying performing a range of different pieces alongside one another and it would be brilliant to have even more students to be a part of this. Rehearsals for our school band take place Thursdays 3.00pm-4.00pm in room 232.

Vocal group

For all those students who enjoy singing regardless of ability, we are launching a new rehearsal time for our vocal group. This will now take place Tuesdays 3.00pm-4.00pm in room 232.

We saw the amazing vocal talents of so many of our students in the school production and we know there are also many more.

There are some exciting external event opportunities coming up for vocalists and it would great to have some more students a part of our already successful school vocal group who will then be a part of these.



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For further information on either of these activities, please feel free to come and see Miss O'Gorman in the music office.

Miss O'Gorman
Subject Leader of Music

Year 7

Uniform

Just a reminder that false nails and lashes need to be removed as they are not part of the school uniform policy. We appreciate that over the holidays students had had them on, but these should be removed before they come back into school.

Footwear

Now the snow has all cleared, students are required to wear the correct school shoes every day.

Thank you

Thank you for your support with having students prepared for learning this week. All students seem to be well equipped for lessons and look to have full uniform on a daily basis.

Year 7 Virtual Parents evening

This term Year 7 will have a virtual Parents Evening. Please keep an eye out for the information about making bookings via Parentmail.

Mrs Mitchell
Year 7 Director of Studies

Mrs Swithenbank
Year 7 Leader

YEAR 8

This week in assembly I spoke about the importance of sleep. I informed students that getting a full 8-10 hours sleep a night can help maintain physical health, emotional wellbeing and school performance. I then gave the students some tips on how to help their sleep become more regular. This included;

- 1) Stop using technology before bed
- 2) Dim the lights earlier



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- 3) Try not to sleep in too long on weekend mornings
- 4) Try and get outside as much as possible during the day and be more active.

Mrs Kaye
Year 8 Director of Studies

Miss Mathie
Year 8 Leader

YEAR 9

It is great to have Year 9 back in with a full week of undisturbed learning. The year have settled back in really well and there is some excellent work being produced. A reminder that now the awful weather has passed the same expectations around equipment and uniform remain.

Options

This is a really important term coming up for Year 9 where they will be having Parents Evening and the Options Evening. We want the students to be informed and thinking about the subjects that they are enjoying as well as progressing well in. This will massively help them when they come to pick their options.

Mr Lucas
Year 9 Director of Studies

Mrs Green
Year 9 Leader

YEAR 10

Progress Reports – Delayed

Unfortunately, the Year 10 progress reports have been delayed as we move over to the new format for reporting. I will be in touch to let you know once they are ready for distribution. In the meantime, if you have a query regarding a certain subject, please contact the subject leader. If your concern is across multiple subjects, please let me know directly.

Mr Syed
Year 10 Director of Studies

Miss Exley
Year 10 Leader

YEAR 11

Pudsey Grammar Sixth Form Offer Letters

Following the post-16 aspirations interviews in December, all Year 11s who have allocated Pudsey Grammar Sixth Form as their first or second choice of provider have received their offer letter detailing the conditions of their offer along with their subjects. Please can all



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students complete the offer response form as linked at the bottom of the letter. Please email sixthform@pudseygrammar.co.uk for further support with admissions.

Pudsey Grammar Sixth Form Open Morning

On Thursday 30th January, we are holding a final Open Morning for any parents or carers who still may not have had an opportunity to visit or attend an open event. This event will run from 8.30am to 10.00am.

Here, our Director of Sixth Form will deliver a presentation followed by a tour of the facilities and an opportunity to speak with current students. Please share the below link with any friends or family who might be interested in our Sixth Form provision. We look forward to seeing you there.

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

We are incredibly proud of our Year 11 students for the maturity and resilience they have shown throughout their mock exams so far. Their hard work and dedication have been commendable.

Looking ahead to next week, the core exam schedule is as follows:

Monday morning: English Language (Paper 2)

Tuesday morning: Physics

Wednesday morning: Math's (Paper 2)

Friday morning: Math's (Paper 3)

Option subjects will be in the PM sessions apart from History on Thursday morning.

As there are multiple maths and science exams next week we do strongly encourage our students to have their own calculators, this will mean they do not have to borrow one during the exam.

Please remind students to have a good breakfast before arriving at school. The bag drop room will be open from 8.20am so students can drop their bags off before going to form.

After each exam, students must go directly to their next lesson to avoid being marked as truant. We appreciate your support in ensuring they stay focused and engaged during this crucial time.

Miss Legg
Year 11 Director of Studies

Miss Birdsall
Year 11 Leader



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SIXTH FORM

Well done to our students

We would like to congratulate our students who have recently sat their Applied exams. Their hard work and dedication are commendable, and we are proud of their efforts.

Key Dates for Assessments

Year 12 Assessment Week: Scheduled for 10th February

Students should use this time to review feedback from previous assessments and prepare thoroughly.

Year 13 March Trials: Scheduled for 10th March.

These will provide an opportunity to evaluate progress and identify areas for further development ahead of final exams.

Year 13 Celebrations

Looking ahead towards the end of the year, we have started to plan for the end of year celebrations. Our package includes a free for students inflatable day on Friday 23rd May, which will mark the start of their study leave, opportunities to purchase a leavers hoodie and year book, and an end of year awards ceremony and prom held at the Headingley Stadium.

This year, we want to hear from Year 13 students on how they would like to celebrate the end of their school year. With this in mind, students have spent the week voting for their favourite leaver's hoodie design and can submit their own photos for their yearbook. If students would like to submit more than five photos, they will need to send a drive file with their desired photos to n.robinson@pudseygrammar.co.uk. Please encourage students to submit their photos and register interest sooner rather than later.

The leavers event and prom are scheduled for Friday 23rd May and Thursday 26th June respectively. More details will follow regarding tickets and the finer details of each event.

Sixth Form Council

This week, we held our first Sixth Form Council meeting. In this session, Miss Robinson outlined the roles that will be available to students and the expectations for meetings. If students would like to attend going forward, the council meetings will be held every Thursday in 020 by the Sixth Form offices and announced at the beginning of each week via google classroom.



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Parker Hannifin Year 12 Visit

This week, five outstanding budding engineers visited our partner, Parker Hannifin's factory in Dewsbury for their second session encouraging girls into STEM. This week, our students designed their own environmental creation, aiming to extract oil from water sources. In

between our next session to be held in March, Parker will be creating their designs, where we will get to test and revise their design on our next visit!

Thank you for your continued support.

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
