



**PARENT & CARER
WEEKLY BULLETIN**
Friday 7th February 2025

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

You may have seen earlier this week that a new report was published by the University of Birmingham which investigated the use of mobile phones in schools by children and how it affected them. The study found that there was no difference between schools who operate a complete ban on mobile phones and those who allow limited use at social times. Students' sleep, classroom behaviour, exercise or how long they spend on their phones overall seems to be no different for schools with complete phone bans and those (like us) who allow their use at break and lunchtimes.

We have always taken the view that phones are a complete distraction in lessons so they are automatically confiscated if students are using them. However, smartphones are now a key part of most people's lives and will remain so for the rest of their lives, so we firmly believe that rather than banning them completely and essentially ignoring the issue, our role is to ensure students understand when it is appropriate and when it is not appropriate to use them. This is a key skill for working life as an adult but also when we are with family and friends – we all know the irritation that can be caused in any relationship if someone is distracted by their phone.

Excessive smartphone use outside of school seemed to cause issues with some children and the study emphasised the importance of educating children about this aspect and encouraging them to reduce their time on their phone. As I'm sure you will all know, this is easier said than done but it was encouraging to see this report which states that simply completely banning them in schools at all times is not the answer.

Mark McKelvie
Headteacher

GENERAL NOTICES

After School Clubs – Library

Our library offers several different clubs and we are always accepting new members. Any interested students should see Ms Martin to register their interest.

Book Club runs every Monday Week B 3:00pm-4:00pm. Our book club members are currently finalising the longlist for this year's Pudsey Grammar School Book Awards!



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Writing Club runs every Wednesday Week B 3:00pm-4:00pm. Students learn new skills, share their stories and are working towards putting together their own collection of short stories for the end of the year.

EAL Book Club runs every Thursday Week A 3:00pm-4:00pm. This club is for students who speak English as an additional language and want to work on their confidence and reading skills. If you think your child would benefit from attending this club, please contact Ms Martin at h.martin@pudseygrammar.co.uk.

The Leeds Book Awards is back again this year and all of our students are welcome to take part. Meetings are on Monday Week A 3:00pm-3:30pm. All students need to do is read the nominated books and discuss their thoughts during the meetings. There will be trips involved as part of the Leeds Book Awards and even a chance to meet the nominated authors!

Miss Martin
School Librarian

History Club Returns

From next week History Club is returning for the new year - with a focus on myths and legends from unusual places. Happening every Tuesday Week A in 114 at 15:10pm, with the first session on Tuesday 11th February.

Mr Garnett
Teacher of History

Year 7

Progress Updates

We are expecting Y7 progress updates to be printed and distributed to students next week during form time.

School Shoes

Just a reminder that students should only be attending school in the correct footwear as identified in the school uniform policy. If for any reason students turn up with incorrect footwear they will be asked to borrow shoes from reception.

Mrs Mitchell
Year 7 Director of Studies

Mrs Swithenbank
Year 7 Leader



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YEAR 8

It has been really lovely to hear students talking about their text in English, Blood Brothers, and receive feedback from their teachers about the levels of enjoyment in lessons at the moment. It is great to see that students are working hard in their core subjects.

We have recently collected an updated current band and ATL information for all Year 8 students from their teachers. Both parents and students will receive a copy of their report with an attached letter of information. If you have any enquiries, please just let me know.

Next week is the final week of the half term. Students have applied themselves really well in what can be a very challenging and tiring half term.

I am already looking forward to next half term where I am sure that Year 8s will continue to make great progress. I am hoping that events in next half term, around careers week, will also inspire our students in school, as they start to think about their next steps.

Mrs Kaye
Year 8 Director of Studies

Miss Mathie
Year 8 Leader

YEAR 9

Year 9 Progress Reports

We have collected data from all the subjects and we are in the process of analysing the data. The progress reports will be coming out shortly and will be an important guide for the upcoming Parents Evening and Options Evening.

Child Mental Health Week

In assembly and in Form we have talked about Child Mental Health Week and the importance of being active to help. It's been great to see so many Year 9 students take part in House competitions and we want to encourage students to take advantage of all the extra curricular the school has on offer.

Mr Lucas
Year 9 Director of Studies

Mrs Green
Year 9 Leader



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YEAR 10

Updated Progress Reports

Following previous messages regarding reports, the reports have been worked on to iron out issues with ATL scores and have been handed out to students. As always, please get in touch should you have any questions.

Year 10 Assessment Week

Well done to all the Year 10 students for their efforts with assessments this week. We are looking forward to seeing how the students have done and continue to support students as we head towards the halfway point of Year 10. Fantastic effort and let's keep moving forward!

Have a great weekend.

Mr Syed
Year 10 Director of Studies

Miss Exley
Year 10 Leader

YEAR 11

I wanted to remind you of some key dates for your diaries over the coming weeks:

- 📌 Monday 10th-12th February - Year 11 NEA Food exam
- 📌 Thursday 13th Feb - Year 11 PSA Music exam (all day)
- 📌 English Walking Talking Mocks – Paper 2

X-side students: Monday 12th February (if a student does food tech they will go to that over the English WTM)

Y-side students: Monday 26th February

📌 **Progress Reports & Parents Evening**

Progress reports will be sent home after half-term, ahead of Parents Evening on Thursday 27th February. This will take place online, and we strongly advise booking appointments early to secure your preferred time slots.



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📌 Half-Term Revision Sessions

During half-term, we are offering subject-specific revision sessions to support students in their preparation. Sessions will be available for Science, Enterprise, Art/Photography, and History. Further details, with timings are linked below as a PDF.

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1DS8PM40zBBueoOV7ja5ehPPx4nWFa6u0>

📌 Exam Success Evening – Tuesday 25th March

We invite both parents and students to attend our Exam Success Evening on Tuesday 25th March. This event will provide valuable strategies and insights to help students maximise their performance in the summer exams.

Year 11 History February Half-Term Intervention – Thursday 20th February 2025

To support your preparation for the upcoming exams, we are running focused revision sessions during the February half-term on Thursday 20th February 2025. These sessions will help you refine your knowledge, practise key exam skills, and boost your confidence ahead of your GCSEs.

Morning Sessions (10:00am-12:00pm):

Paper 1 – Crime and Punishment

Paper 2 – American West

Rooms: 113/114/115 (RAN, AGT, OBT)

Afternoon Sessions (1:00pm-3:00pm):

Paper 3 – Weimar and Nazi Germany

Paper 2 – Elizabethan England

Rooms: 113/114 (RAN, AGT)

Why Attend?

Targeted support – Get expert guidance on key topics and exam techniques.

Exam-style practice – Work through past questions with teacher feedback.

Boost your confidence – Strengthen your understanding and improve your performance.

Important Information:

Arrive at reception at least 10 minutes before your session starts to sign in and be directed to the correct room.

These sessions are not compulsory, but they are a highly valuable opportunity to strengthen your knowledge and improve your exam performance.

Resources will be provided to help you make the most of these sessions. Make sure you attend and take advantage of this opportunity.



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If you have any further questions or concerns please contact Mr Alderson via email at r.alderson@pudseygrammar.co.uk.

Mr Alderson
Subject Leader of History

Miss Legg
Year 11 Director of Studies

Miss Birdsall
Year 11 Leader

SIXTH FORM

We hope this message finds you well. Please find below some key updates for the coming weeks.

Assessment Week 12 – Next week, students will be completing assessments in their subjects. Please encourage them to prepare thoroughly.

February Half Term Revision Sessions Year 13 – A schedule of revision sessions is linked below. We strongly encourage students to attend to support their progress.

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1SdgdSkRh5FfoWcDSol9ghbfkivMGZ04t>

March Trials – Year 13 trial exams begin on 10th March.

World Book Day – 6th March – We encourage students to get involved and celebrate a love of reading.

Countdown

- 23 weeks until the end of the Academic Year
- 20 weeks until the start of Year 12 Trial Exams
- 13 weeks until the start of Year 12 and 13 External Exams (Monday 12th May)
- 13 weeks until Leaver's Assembly and Inflatables
- 4 weeks until Year 13 Trial Exams 10th March
- 1 week until half term
- 0 weeks until 10th February Assessment week

Year 13 History February Half-Term Intervention – Wednesday 19th February 2025

To support your preparation for the upcoming exams and coursework, we are running focused revision sessions during the February half-term on Wednesday 19th February 2025. These sessions will help you consolidate key content, refine your exam skills, and strengthen your NEA.



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Morning Sessions (10:00am-12:00pm):

Tudor History

NEA Support

Rooms: 113/114/108 (RAN, AGT, OBT)

Afternoon Sessions (1:00pm-3:00pm):

Democracy and Nazism

NEA Support

Rooms: 113/114/108 (RAN, AGT)

Why Attend?

Specialist support – Get targeted guidance from teachers on key topics and coursework.

Exam preparation – Practise past questions and refine your essay-writing skills.

NEA refinement – Receive feedback and make improvements to your coursework.

Important Information:

Arrive at reception at least 10 minutes before your session starts to sign in and be directed to the correct room.

These sessions are not compulsory, but they are a highly valuable opportunity to strengthen your knowledge and improve your exam and coursework performance.

Resources will be provided to help you make the most of these sessions. Make sure you attend and take advantage of this opportunity.

If you have any further questions or concerns please contact Mr Alderson via email at r.alderson@pudseygrammar.co.uk.

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