



**PARENT & CARER
WEEKLY BULLETIN
Friday 14th February 2025**

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

The first half term of 2025 has passed extremely fast. After the difficult start we had with the snow closure and then reduced opening hours it is good to see more settled weather along with the lighter mornings and evenings starting now. Our Year 11 and Year 13 students have successfully negotiated their trial exams and our focus now is completing their courses and preparing them for their actual exams in the summer. Students in all year groups have been collecting a significant number of attitude to learning points through attending regularly, working well in class and upholding the school values in their general behaviour.

I hope that you manage to spend some time with your children over the half term break and we will look forward to welcoming them all back on Monday 24th February.

Mark McKelvie
Headteacher

GENERAL NOTICES

The PGS Book Awards - World Book Day

The Pudsey Grammar School Book Awards is back! Inspired by the Leeds Book Awards, the PGS Book Awards is our own school book award. Our wonderful book club has narrowed down a longlist of exceptional books, and soon the rest of the school will be able to vote for their favourite. Students will get ATL points and house points for voting, and can even win a prize for themselves if they give a really convincing reason for their vote! Students can vote either at school or at home through accessing the student intranet. The timeline of the award can be seen below:

Monday 24th February - The longlist is revealed and the first round of voting begins.

Friday 28th February - The first round of voting closes.

Monday 3rd March - The shortlist is revealed and the second round of voting begins.

Wednesday 5th March - The second round of voting closes.

Thursday 6th March - The winning books, house and students are revealed on World Book Day.

World Book Day - £1 Book Tokens

Today the World Book Day £1 book tokens were given out to all students. The library has spares if students would like more. Sixth form students, if they wish to, can collect these either from the library or from Miss Robinson's office. Tokens can be swapped for the World Book



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Day books for free (or £1 off their chosen book) at participating booksellers and supermarkets. Valid from 13th February - 23rd March 2025.

Accessing eBooks through Reading Cloud

Our Reading Cloud subscription now includes free access to Project Gutenberg. This incredible resource offers over 70,000 free eBooks and with seamless integration into Reading Cloud, it's easier than ever for students to explore a world of classic literature at no extra cost. A recommended reading list can be browsed on the literacy webpage on the school website. This reading list can also be accessed through Reading Cloud. Guidance on how to access these eBooks can be found on the school library webpage.

Ms Martin Mrs Gough
School Librarian Literacy Lead

School PE Kit Reminder (Years 7, 8 and 9)

This is a polite reminder that the Pudsey Grammar School PE kit is navy blue in colour, If students have lost part of their PE kit we will allow students to temporarily wear another colour until it is replaced. If this item of PE kit is not replaced and students continue to bring in other non-navy PE kit then sanctions will be added to Arbor.

Students are only required to have the branded school polo top and either the school branded hoody or rugby top. All other items of clothing do not need to have the school badge attached- please see the school website for further details under the heading of uniform.

We hope students have an enjoyable and restful half term.

Mr McCroakam
Subject Leader of PE

Year 7

Progress Update

Progress updates have been sent out with students during Form time this week. You should have also received an electronic copy. Please let me know if you or your child have not received their progress update for this half term.

Equipment

We have been doing a lot of work to support students with missing equipment in Form time, ensuring they are set up for a successful day of learning. Please could we ask that you support this and check in with students over half term with anything they may be missing from their



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daily equipment so they are fully equipped again ready for the first week back. The equipment list can be found on Page 19 of the school planner.

Half Term

Well done to all Year 7 for their hard work this half term. We hope everyone has a restful week off.

Mrs Mitchell
Year 7 Director of Studies

Mrs Swithenbank
Year 7 Leader

YEAR 8

Duke of Edinburgh

If your child has signed up for the Bronze, Silver, or Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award, they must log in to the eDofE website, update their choices for the Skill, Physical, and Volunteering sections, and save their selections: <https://edofe.org/>

Here are some ideas they could choose for each section: <https://www.dofe.org/do/ideas/>.

We strongly encourage Year 9 students to complete and get their Bronze Award signed off within the year. This will allow them to move on smoothly to the Silver Award in Year 10. Our Silver and Gold cohorts should be the majority of the way through their activity sections by the time they complete their expeditions in June/July.

If your child has forgotten their login details, they will need to email me at j.legg@pudseygrammar.co.uk for assistance.

Spring Term Progress Update

You will soon receive your child's Spring Term Progress Report, which will provide an overview of their target grades, current performance in each subject, and their attitude to learning (ATL). Should you have any questions regarding the report, please feel free to contact the subject leaders.

Assembly Highlights

During our final assembly of this half term, we held an ATL Rewards Draw to celebrate students' efforts. Those in the top 25% for ATL were entered into a prize draw with the chance to win Beats headphones, Love to Shop vouchers, and mini eggs!

NHS Competition Opportunity

After half-term, students will have the chance to participate in the NHS Step into Careers competition. I introduced the competition to the students in assembly, explaining what it



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entails. If your child is interested in entering, please encourage them to email me directly. For more details, visit: <https://www.stepintothens.nhs.uk/>

Mrs Kaye
Year 8 Director of Studies

Miss Mathie
Year 8 Leader

YEAR 9

Half Term

We are at the end of a busy and eventful half term with all the disruption of the weather at the start and we want Year 9 to have a relaxing and restful half term. We encourage everyone to do things they enjoy and come back refreshed and ready to go.

Guided Choices and Parents Evening

The progress reports will be coming out shortly after the half term and we have a couple of big events coming up for Year 9. We have Parents Evening on the 13th of March and then Guided Choices Evening the following week on the 20th. This is a very important time for the students and we want to raise as much awareness as we can.

Mr Lucas
Year 9 Director of Studies

Mrs Green
Year 9 Leader

YEAR 10

Half Term 2 - Well Done!

This half term has been so successful in many different ways. Media students have submitted their first projects, students studying BTECs have begun their first NEAs, while students who are studying GCSE subjects continue through their courses and making good progress. In amongst all of this, all students have sat their second assessment week in their classes and I look forward to seeing how they have all done. Once the information has been collated, we will prepare a second round of progress reports. During Form time, tutors will deliver activities to help students reflect on their current position, compare to their previous report and consider what steps can be taken to continue moving forward. Enjoy your well deserved break!

Mr Syed
Year 10 Director of Studies

Miss Exley
Year 10 Leader



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YEAR 11

Year 11 have had an excellent half term! We've seen a huge improvement in students' attitudes, and their focus in-lesson has been noted by many staff members. Well done to everyone for their hard work and focus.

Here are some key dates for the next half term:

- ✦ Mock Results & Reports – Students received their mock results today, 14th February, with their trial exam grades. A full progress report will be sent out during the week commencing 24th February.
- ✦ Exam Resilience Workshop – 24th February during Form and Period 1. Select students will stay for Period 2 (students have been informed).
- ✦ Parents' Evening – 27th February. This is a great opportunity to discuss progress and next steps.
- ✦ Yearbook Photos – 5th March (Periods 1 & 2). Please ensure you arrive on time so you don't miss out!
- ✦ Drama Exam – 10th March. Keep up the hard work in preparation.

Enjoy the break and come back ready for a strong half term ahead!

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 – Congratulations to our Year 12 students who have successfully completed their first assessment week. DC2 will be sent out before Easter.
- February Half Term Revision Sessions Year 13 – A schedule of revision sessions can be found below. We strongly encourage students to attend to support their progress.
- March Trials – Year 13 trial exams begin on 10th March.



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- World Book Day – 6th March – We encourage students to get involved and celebrate a love of reading.
- Student Finance and Next Steps Evening – 11th March.
- Year 13 Success Evening – 27th March.

Countdown:

- 3 weeks until Year 13 Trial Exams (10th March).
- 12 weeks until the start of Year 12 and 13 External Exams (Monday 12th May).
- 12 weeks until Leaver's Assembly and Inflatables.
- 19 weeks until the start of Year 12 Trial Exams.
- 22 weeks until the end of the Academic Year.

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1AuVsERLqReQfwA83n2iMIR8t75FtZsyt>

We hope you have a restful half term break.

Mrs Lea
Acting Post 16 Director of Studies

Miss Hart
Attendance and Pastoral Support

Miss Robinson
Post 16 Administrator
