



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

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

One of the most daunting prospects any adult faces in their life is a job interview. Most people usually experience this for the first time after they leave school and apply for their first job. We have realised that although one of the key functions of a school is to get students good qualifications, these will simply get the person into an interview. It is how the person conducts themselves in an interview that will determine if they get the job.

We want to make sure our students are fully prepared for their future lives, so I am pleased that our Year 10 participated in practice job interviews this week with 21 different organisations ranging from Jaguar Land Rover to the Home Office. We prepare the students before with specific interview advice and this was reflected in the fantastic comments from the interviewers. They said our students were 'amazing' and in many cases extremely clear about the career they wanted to pursue. Thank you Ms Robinson who organised the entire event.

In addition, we had our Year 12 visit to Oxford University's New College (which is actually 645 years old!) this week on our annual residential trip which allowed them to experience college life. It is part of the New College's Step Up programme which is a three year fully subsidised participation scheme to support students who are thinking of applying for Oxford or Cambridge University. There are only 43 schools in England who are in this programme and we are the only one selected from the Leeds area.

Mark McKelvie
Headteacher

GENERAL NOTICES

Drama club

Drama club is starting Wednesday 12th March 3pm-4pm in the Drama Studio. Open to Year 7, 8 and 9. This is an acting only club looking at working with scripts.

If you have any questions, please see Mr Loughlin.

Miss Wray
Subject Leader of Performing Arts



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PGS Book Awards - World Book Day

Congrats to Arcturus for submitting the most votes in the PGS Book Awards! The winning book for KS3 was 'The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas' by John Boyne and 'A Good Girl's Guide to Murder' by Holly Jackson. A massive thank you to all the students who voted - hundreds of ATL points and house points were earned. All the books that were nominated for the awards are available to be borrowed from the school library. On World Book Day, we had loads of award-related activities going on in the library and it was lovely to see so many students taking part.

Ms Martin
School Librarian

Year 7

Form Changes

This week a number of Year 7 Forms have met their new Form tutors. This is a temporary change to support our Year 11 students ahead of their exams and all Forms will have their original tutors back for the end of their year.

Rewards

This week Year 7 had an assembly where they found out about the rewards activities at the end of the year and how to qualify for them. More information with details of these trips will follow in the summer term.

Mrs Mitchell
Year 7 Director of Studies

Mrs Swithenbank
Year 7 Leader

YEAR 8

Please note that the Spring reports were sent out on Tuesday. These reports include information on target bands, current bands, and Attitude to Learning. If you have any questions or require further clarification, please feel free to contact me.

On Wednesday, Year 8 had a virtual assembly to discuss the rewards trips at the end of the year. I'm excited to announce that our reward trip will be to Go Ape! Be sure to keep an eye on the bulletin for more details.

Mrs Kaye
Year 8 Director of Studies

Miss Mathie
Year 8 Leader



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YEAR 9

Progress reports

Year 9 have received their progress reports in person and via Parentmail, I know there has been a lot of changes due to the move over to Arbor and the scoring systems so please read through the guidance attached. Please be mindful that the ATL scores are linked to attendance to lessons as well.

Parents Evening

Parents Evening is on Thursday 13th March. I know there were some issues with bookings so we have increased the number of slots that parents can book appointments so please try again to make further bookings with teachers.

Guided Choices Evening

Guided Choices is on Thursday 20th March and will run from 5pm-7pm where there will be a couple of talks you can attend as well as all the options to visit. Further guidance will be sent out via Arbor.

Mr Lucas
Year 9 Director of Studies

Mrs Green
Year 9 Leader

YEAR 10

Year 10 Practice Interviews

On Tuesday 4th March, the Year 10 students were invited to take part in a one-to-one practice interview with external employers. Students prepared for this during form time, and it was great to see how well they engaged in their preparations. On the day itself, it was a proud moment to see all the students sitting opposite external employers and engaging in conversations about their futures. We had compliments on the students throughout the day in regard to how well they spoke, engaged and performed in the interviews. Well done Year 10, you've made everyone very proud!

Feedback on the interviews shall be shared shortly.

Mr Syed
Year 10 Director of Studies

Miss Exley
Year 10 Leader



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YEAR 11

We would like to start by congratulating Year 11 for how well they conducted themselves on photo day!! We are excited to see the photos in the yearbook.

Please find below some important upcoming dates for your attention:

- 10th March: Drama Exam
- 10th – 13th March: Food Technology Final NEA Practical Exam
- 18th March: English Literature Trial Exam (Paper 1)
- 20th March: English Literature Trial Exam (Paper 2)
- 5th May – 20th June: GCSE Exams

Additionally, End of year celebration events will take place from 1st to 3rd June. Students have been informed of the criteria they must meet in order to attend these special final celebration events. The criteria include:

- No suspensions between March and the end of exams
- Full attendance at all Summer exams
- No more than two missed 90-minute detentions
- Improvement in attendance between now and study leave
- Any further incidents, such as high levels of truancy or social time issues, will be at the school's discretion.

Miss Legg
Year 11 Director of Studies

Miss Birdsall
Year 11 Leader

SIXTH FORM

Year 12 Work Experience Week Preparation

This week in form time, students have started preparing for Work Placement Week (w/c 14th July) by working on their CVs and cover letters to send to potential employers. They will continue developing these over the coming weeks.

We encourage parents and guardians to have conversations at home about work placements, helping students explore opportunities that align with their interests.

Further information will be shared soon regarding how placements will be logged this year.

Year 12 Step Up New College Programme Oxford Mini-Residential

This week, 20 Year 12 students, led by Mr Hodge and Ms Nota, visited the University of Oxford, New College, for an immersive experience of university life. Students attended live lectures,



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explored the historic grounds and facilities, and participated in masterclasses run by academics, gaining valuable insight into higher education. A fantastic opportunity for our students to broaden their horizons and inspire future aspirations!

Year 13 Success, Student Finance & Apprenticeship Evening

We are delighted to invite you to our Year 13 Success Evening, an important event designed to support both students and parents as we approach the summer exam season. The evening will provide essential guidance on revision, exam preparation, and future pathways.

Event Details:

- Date: Thursday 27th March
- Arrival & Refreshments: Main school reception, 5.30 pm
- Revision & Exam Guidance Talk: 6.00 pm
- Student Finance Talk: 6.30pm
- Apprenticeships, Careers & Next Steps Stall
- In-school Careers Guidance Stall

We are pleased to welcome Marica Shelbourne from the University of Huddersfield, who will deliver a Student Finance Parent Guidance Talk, providing crucial insights into student loans, tuition fees, and financial support for those considering university.

To confirm your attendance, please book via the following link:

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/pudsey-grammar-school>

Year 13 Prom & Celebrations

We are excited to announce that Leavers' Hoodies are now available to purchase via the link below. These will be available to order until 10pm on Wednesday 2nd April. Hoodies will be handed out to students on their final day before study leave – Friday 23rd May (Inflatable Day!).

<https://www.hoodiehut.co.uk/leavers-hoodies/pudsey-grammar-school-2025/>.

Additionally, the Yearbook is still available to purchase and will be distributed to students on Results Day.

<https://allyearbooks.co.uk/buy/22219>

If you/your child will not be available on Results Day, yearbooks can be collected from Main Reception from September 2025, alongside A-Level certificates.

Further information about prom tickets will be released soon. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch.



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📅 Year 13 March Trial Exams – 10th to 14th March

A reminder that Year 13 March Trial Exams will take place from Monday 10th March to Friday 14th March. These exams are an important opportunity for students to assess their progress ahead of their final exams.

The exam timetable is linked below, and students have also received a hard copy and can view their individual exam schedule on Arbor.

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1MeQNI2DTtk-ce9sYI2lyTHRZw4mi7fks>

Please encourage your young adult to revise effectively and make use of the support available in school. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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
