



**PARENT & CARER  
WEEKLY BULLETIN**  
Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2025

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## HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

It has been great to welcome all of our students coming back to school this week. We have got an exciting half term ahead as we begin our final preparations for GCSE exams and for the A Levels too. We had a highly successful ski trip for our students over the half term holiday and I wanted to thank all of the staff and particularly the trip leader, Mr Baxter who made that possible.

We are extremely proud of the extracurricular activities that our school offers our students. In two weeks, I will be accompanying two of our Year 11 students on a visit to the Houses of Parliament at the invitation of our local MP, Rachel Reeves. In addition to this, the students will visit Downing Street, which is obviously the chance of a lifetime. Alongside this we have the Year 7 residential later this year and also our annual Year 12 Paris trip which both take place before the summer.

**Mark McKelvie**  
Headteacher

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## GENERAL NOTICES

### The PGS Book Awards

And so it begins! The 2025 PGS Book Awards is now underway. The first round of voting opened on Monday and closed today. The vote for the winner will open on Monday 3rd and be announced on World Book Day (Thursday 6th). All students from Year 7 to 13 are able to vote. There is a Google form on the Student Intranet that they can access from school and from home. Each time a student votes, they will get an ATL point for themselves and a point for their house. The winners will be announced next week!

### Pudsey library poetry workshop

On Wednesday, we took a group of our Year 7 and 8 students to Pudsey Library to do a poetry workshop with the amazingly talented Bradford poet, Kirsty Taylor. Kirsty passed on her wisdom and the students wrote some incredible poems. Some of these poems will be displayed in school and will also be shown on our school social media sites. You can listen to the poem that Kirsty performed for our students here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oBcyJTdhmGo>

There is a poetry showcase happening tomorrow (Saturday 1st of March) at Leeds Central Library with acclaimed spoken word artists, Polarbear and Testament. It is a free, family-



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friendly event, and our students who attended the workshop have the opportunity to perform their poems to the audience! You can see more information about the event here:

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/whats-on/leeds/room-700-leeds-central-library/livewire-showcase-polarbear-and-testament/2025-03-01/14:00/t-moxopgk>

Ms Martin  
School Librarian

Ms Brawley  
Teacher of English

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

If your child has signed up for the Bronze (Year 9) , Silver (Year 10), or Gold (Year 12) 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](mailto:j.legg@pudseygrammar.co.uk) for assistance.

Miss Legg  
Year 11 Director of Studies

### **Ramadan**

We, as a school, have always fully supported students fasting during the month of Ramadan and appreciate that it will affect their participation in PE lessons. We ask, as in previous years that your son/daughter should still bring in their PE kit to change into for any PE lessons as we would still expect them to take an additional role/part in lessons as a referee/coach/umpire

Mr McCroakam  
Subject Leader of PE

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## **Year 7**

### **Welcome back**

Year 7 have had a great first week back. I have seen a big improvement with uniform and equipment during Form time. Thank you for your support with this over the half term.



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### **Residential**

In the next half term we will be holding a parental meeting about the residential that is running in summer for Year 7. There will be more information coming out with dates for this evening over the next few weeks and the meeting will be held after Easter. If you do have any questions or concerns in the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact myself or Mrs Swithenbank.

### **Form Changes**

There will be a few changes to Form tutors starting next week, this is in place to support our Year 11 students ahead of their exams. This is a temporary change. Tutors will be swapping for between 6-8 weeks and then Year 7 will get their tutors back once the Year 11 students have gone on study leave.

Mrs Mitchell  
Year 7 Director of Studies

Mrs Swithenbank  
Year 7 Leader

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## **YEAR 8**

I hope your child has enjoyed a restful half-term break.

This week in assembly, Mrs Gough highlighted the importance of reading, especially with World Book Day approaching on 6th March. To support this, we would like to remind you that on the school website, under the Parental Information section, you will find a Literacy page. This includes a Year 7 and 8 Reading List that offers fantastic recommendations for your child. Additionally, students have access to the Reading Cloud via their RM Unify tiles, which provides book suggestions and allows them to reserve and renew books easily.

Encouraging your child to read at home can sometimes feel challenging, but there are several ways you can help foster a love for reading. Here are a few tips:

- **Let Your Child Choose:** Encourage your child to explore books from our age-appropriate reading list and allow them to choose what interests them.
- **Establish a Reading Routine:** Create a consistent reading time, such as before bed or after school, to make reading a regular habit.
- **Discuss What They're Reading:** Show interest in what your child is reading by having open conversations about their books. Share any books you've enjoyed, too, to spark their curiosity.
- **Embrace Digital Reading:** Some children may prefer digital books over traditional ones. Encourage the use of e-books and audiobooks if they find them engaging.



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- Encourage, Don't Pressure: Let your child explore reading at their own pace. If they're not interested in reading at a particular moment, avoid pressuring them. Allow their love for reading to grow naturally.

Mrs Kaye  
Year 8 Director of Studies

Miss Mathie  
Year 8 Leader

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## **YEAR 9**

### **Guided Choices**

We will be sending out weekly reminders around Guided Choices for the next few weeks. A number of students have been to see us already about options which is great to see. Over the following weeks, progress reports will be issued, Parents Evening will be on the 13th March followed by the Guided Choices Evening on the 20th March at 5 pm. More information will be sent out about the evening itself soon. We want students and yourselves to be well informed and confident in the GCSE choices they are making.

Mr Lucas  
Year 9 Director of Studies

Mrs Green  
Year 9 Leader

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## **YEAR 10**

### **Year 10 Practice Interviews**

On Tuesday 4th March, Pudsey Grammar School will be welcoming 20 employers into the school to conduct practice interviews with each and every Year 10 student. This is to provide students with the experience of being in front of an employer and in order for them to gain valuable feedback. There is nothing to worry about and there won't be any questions to catch students out. Since September, students have been engaging in discussing a plethora of career options and looking at potential pathways in the future. It would be worth discussing future career options at home and getting students to think about their futures and look at potential questions they could ask to make the best use of this experience.

Mr Syed  
Year 10 Director of Studies

Miss Exley  
Year 10 Leader

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### **YEAR 11**

Year 11 started this half term with an inspiring assembly and workshop from Lee Jackson on Monday. This brilliant session was highly relatable for our students, and many left feeling motivated and renewed. It came at a great time, as many students are beginning to plan their revision strategies.

A huge thank you to parents who attended Parents' Evening yesterday. If you need any further clarity, please use the school website to contact Heads of Department for subject-specific queries, or feel free to email me directly.

Key Dates & Updates:

#### **Photo Day – Wednesday 5th March (Form Time, Period 1 & Period 2)**

Full uniform is essential – no nose piercings, leggings, incorrect footwear, etc.

#### **Morning Mastery for Core Subjects**

As with previous Year 11 cohorts, we are introducing Morning Mastery sessions for core subjects. This means Form groups will be reorganised, with students placed in Math, English, or Science Form groups based on their trial exam results/current grades. Morning Mastery replaces Form time from 08:30-08:50. There is minimal room for movement between groups and all queries need to go through Mr Basset. We encourage students to focus on the benefits of these targeted sessions.

#### **Drama Exam – Monday 10th March**

#### **Parent Exam Success Evening – Tuesday 25th March**

Thank you for your continued support.

Miss Legg  
Year 11 Director of Studies

Miss Birdsall  
Year 11 Leader

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### **SIXTH FORM**

Here are this week's key updates for our Post 16 students:

#### **Student Finance Assembly – Year 13**

This morning, Year 13 students attended a Student Finance Assembly delivered by Sophie Craven from the University of Huddersfield. This provided valuable insights into student loans, tuition fees, and financial support for higher education.



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### **Parents Information Evening – 27th March**

There will be a follow-up Parents Information Evening on Wednesday 27th March to discuss student finance in more detail. Further details will be shared soon.

### **Oxford Residential – 4th & 5th March**

A number of students will be attending the Oxford Residential on Monday 4th and Tuesday 5th March, an exciting opportunity to experience university life and broaden their academic aspirations.

### **Year 13 March Trials – Starting 10th March**

Year 13 students will begin their March Trial Exams from Monday 10th March. The timetable is linked below, and students also have a hard copy as well as access to all of their exam details via Arbor.

[https://drive.google.com/open?id=1Z2z\\_FiBB\\_6z3Pp7vAoHt8wq9l7Bi8Yg-](https://drive.google.com/open?id=1Z2z_FiBB_6z3Pp7vAoHt8wq9l7Bi8Yg-)

### **Work Experience (WEX) – Year 12**

Year 12 Work Experience (WEX) will take place week beginning 14th July. Over the next few weeks, students will be preparing CVs and personal statements during Form time to help secure placements.

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

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