



**PARENT & CARER  
WEEKLY BULLETIN  
Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

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## **HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE**

I have been working with my Leadership team on some refinements to our Behaviour policy which we are in the process of finalising. I should be able to outline these for you in next week's bulletin. In addition, today along with two Year 11 students, I am visiting the Houses of Parliament. We have then been invited to a reception at Number 11 Downing Street with the Chancellor (and local Pudsey MP) Rachel Reeves. It is a unique opportunity for two of our students and I am delighted to be able to accompany them. I'll let you know how the visit went next week.

**Mark McKelvie**  
**Headteacher**

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## **GENERAL NOTICES**

### **Holland Sports Tour - Sports hall meeting (Year 8 & 9)**

Following on from the Arbor message communicated last week, any student who is attending the Holland Football Sports Tour in Year 8 and Year 9 should meet Mr McCroakam and Mr Conway in the Sports Hall after school on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> March at 3pm so that they can choose their sports top size for the tour.

Once this has happened the Finance team will communicate how to pay for the sports top through Parentmail.

Mr McCroakam  
Subject Leader of PE

### **Leeds Book Awards Trip**

On Wednesday, we took a group of students to Leeds Central Library to celebrate the Leeds Book Awards. The students were taken on an exclusive tour around the library and were shown areas that are not usually available to the general public. They also got to make their own TikToks to celebrate the nominated books and interacted with students from other schools who are also taking part in the awards. It was a fun-filled day, and the students are looking forward to attending the awards ceremony in May.

Ms Martin  
School Librarian

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### **Year 7**

#### **Tutor Changes**

The Year 7 forms who have new tutors have settled in really well with their new staff members. It has been lovely to see in form time this week getting to know their new tutors and still maintaining their great behaviour and form time standards.

#### **Entry to School**

Just a reminder that students should be in school before 8:30am on a morning. It is really important that students are going to form time as this sets them up for a successful day. Form tutors can provide any missing equipment or replace timetables if needed.

#### **Knowledge Organisers**

One piece of essential daily equipment is the knowledge organiser. Please could I ask that you check in with your child and make sure that they have one. If not, they are available to buy on Parentmail and can be collected from the Finance office when they arrive at school.

Thank you in advance for your support with this.

Mrs Mitchell  
Year 7 Director of Studies

Mrs Swithenbank  
Year 7 Leader

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### **YEAR 8**

#### **Year 8 Notices - Rewards trip**

As I mentioned last week Year 8 will be going on a rewards trip to Go Ape. This exciting day out will include the Tree-Tops high ropes course and team-building activities. To be eligible, students must consistently demonstrate a positive attitude in class and have good attendance, earning at least 3500 ATL points by May half term. We believe this trip will motivate students to continue excelling and provide a fun opportunity to bond outside the classroom. A letter will be sent to your Parentmail shortly explaining more details.

Mrs Kaye  
Year 8 Director of Studies

Miss Lavan  
Acting Year 8 Leader

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### **YEAR 9**

#### **Guided Choices**

Next week is the launch of Guided Choices for Year 9. We will have an in-school assembly on Wednesday and the Guided Choices Evening next Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March. All the information



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will be provided for students and will also be put onto the school website so you can access it. During the evening there will be two talks in the hall about the process at 5:00pm and 6:00pm with the opportunity to see all the subjects on offer. We hope to see as many of you as we can.

### **Duke of Edinburgh**

Well Done to all the Year 9 students who have completed their Bronze expedition over the past couple of weeks. Whilst you might have been challenged by the terrain, weather conditions and lack of sleep we hope you gained a lot of valuable experience.

Please remember to keep logging onto the eDofE website so you can update any sections which need completing.

Mr Lucas  
Year 9 Director of Studies

Mrs Green  
Year 9 Leader

### **Drama and Performing Arts Options Meeting**

If your child is interested in opting for either GCSE Drama or Performing Arts please ask them to attend a short meeting.

Date: Wednesday 19th March  
Time: Form time  
Location: Drama Studio

Any questions please ask your child to see Miss Wray.

Miss Wray  
Subject Leader of Performing Arts

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## **YEAR 10**

### **Speakers Trust Public Speaking Workshop**

Huge congratulations to the students for their outstanding participation in the recent public speaking workshop organised in collaboration with Speakers Trust. We were all very impressed with the confidence, creativity, and enthusiasm that all students demonstrated throughout the day.

All students' engagement and willingness to step out of their comfort zones was truly commendable. A special well done to those who delivered their speeches at the end of the day. We are incredibly proud of all who took part and look forward to seeing those newfound skills in action later in the year.

Mr Connor  
Teacher of English



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### **Advice around mobile phone use**

This week I have had a number of conversations with students around the use of phones, particularly in the evenings. I thought it would be worth covering a few things to support at home.

Signs of being too attached to phone use:

- ✓ Checking your phone first thing in the morning.
- ✓ Feeling anxious without it.
- ✓ Using it to avoid social interactions.
- ✓ Mindlessly scrolling without purpose

Reducing screen time:

- 💡 Set app limits or use screen-time tracking.
- 📵 Create phone-free zones (e.g., dinner table, bedroom).
- 👥 Schedule screen-free hangouts with friends & family.
- 🕒 Try the “phone stack” challenge when out with friends

Phone use in the evening close to bedtime is known to cause issues with sleep. This lack of sleep can then contribute to a range of issues including problems with mental health, engagement and focus.

### **Practice Interview Feedback**

Students have now received their feedback from the practice interviews. Feel free to use this to discuss how they performed, what they learned and where students can improve. It would also be a good opportunity to discuss future aspirations and how their GCSEs will help them achieve them. The 6th Form prospectus is on the school website for information on courses and entry requirements.

<https://www.pudseygrammar.co.uk/sixth-form/prospectus/>

Mr Syed  
Year 10 Director of Studies

Miss Exley  
Year 10 Leader

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## **YEAR 11**

### **Year 11 Exam Success Evening**

On 25th March we are excited to invite students, and parents/carers into school to attend our Exam Success Evening. The event will run from 5:15pm to 6:30pm. This is a popular event in



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our calendar and it takes place in March because the final build up towards the exams is very much underway.

The evening will start with a central session for all parents/carers where 'MindMate', a mental health support team, will give a presentation on exam stress, alongside Mr Bassett to inform students and parents/carers on the preparation for exams and next steps.

We will have a number of short workshops and sessions aimed at parents and students that focus on helping students revise, stay motivated and prepare for big core exams.

On this evening we will also provide parents/carers with a pack that will include:

- An overview of the evening
- A copy of the most recent Year 11 report
- A copy of the Easter revision timetable and,
- A copy of the Exam timetable with revision sessions in school.

Whilst primarily aimed at parents, we do recommend that students attend too as it helps to reinforce the main messages and ideas. We will provide refreshments on the evening and students do not need to attend in their school uniform.

We are aware that many students and parents/carers may be opening/breaking their fast towards the end of this event. The school will be providing bottles of water and dates for any families wishing to stay for the entirety of the event, so they can open/break their fast in school at the end of the event. Any parent/carer who wishes to leave the event slightly early to open/break their fast elsewhere is more than welcome to leave early.

We really do look forward to seeing parents/carers on this evening to provide information and support for Year 11 students.

Please can all parents/carers respond to the link below to confirm their attendance or absence for the evening.

[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=36RtvWgt\\_0ixy0fvXicR7U5Z-Q40kQdFk0BjEOxdFOJUMEIHOFNKNk1aMktFWERCMjRDTINMU0dHOy4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=36RtvWgt_0ixy0fvXicR7U5Z-Q40kQdFk0BjEOxdFOJUMEIHOFNKNk1aMktFWERCMjRDTINMU0dHOy4u)

Mr Bassett  
Assistant Headteacher

We are now well into the final and most important stretch of Year 11, and our students have continued to show great maturity and commitment.

Our Exam Success Evening is on Tuesday 25th March. This session is highly recommended for



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both students and parents. The Heads of maths and English will be delivering valuable guidance and insight into the upcoming exam period. We'll cover how best to prepare, key revision strategies, and how to manage the demands of this crucial time. Your attendance will be a huge support in helping your child succeed.

Looking ahead to next week, students will also be able to access a short questionnaire via the student intranet. This will allow them to provide:

- Dietary requirements for prom
- Votes for "Most Likely To..." awards
- Leavers hoodie/t-shirt size

Please encourage your child to complete this promptly to help us prepare for their end-of-year celebrations.

### **Key Upcoming Dates:**

- 18th March: English Literature Trial Exam (Paper 1)
- 20th March: English Literature Trial Exam (Paper 2)
- Tuesday, 25th March: Exam Success Evening
- 5th May – 20th June: GCSE Exams

Miss Legg  
Year 11 Director of Studies

Miss Birdsall  
Year 11 Leader

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## **SIXTH FORM**

We hope you are well. Please see the latest updates for our Post-16 students:

✦ Well Done to Year 13 – A huge well done to our Year 13 students for their exemplary behaviour during their trial exams this week. Their focus and commitment have been excellent, and we look forward to seeing their results.

✦ Success & Finance Evening – 27th March – We will be hosting a Success & Finance Evening to provide key information about student finance and next steps after Year 13. Details have already been sent out.

✦ Easter Holiday Revision Sessions – Exam revision sessions will be on offer over the Easter holidays to support students in their final preparations. A full timetable and further details will follow shortly.



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✦ Year 12 Work Experience (WEX) – Please encourage your young person to get their placement organised as soon as possible. This is a valuable opportunity to gain insight into potential career paths and develop key skills.

✦ Year 12 Parents Evening – 3<sup>rd</sup> April – A chance to speak to subject teachers and discuss progress.

✦ Voting Registration – With upcoming elections, we encourage all eligible students to register to vote and engage with the democratic process.

On Monday 17<sup>th</sup> March we will be making some changes to the way students enter school in the morning. Year 12 and 13 will now enter and sign in through the Gateway area of the main building, not through main reception. This door will be staffed until 9:00am by members of the Sixth Form team. Students arriving after 9:00am will enter through reception as normal. Late students from other year groups will be asked to wait in reception to be escorted to lessons. It is essential that Sixth Form students do not let them into the building.

Students will be told about the new arrangements in school this week. Please support us by ensuring that they know about this change and checking that they have their ID badge with them before they leave home.

### **Countdown**

Easter Holidays 3 weeks

Formal Exams 8 weeks

Year 12 Trial exams 15 weeks

Thank you for your ongoing support. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Mrs Lea  
Acting Post 16 Director of Studies

Miss Hart  
Attendance and Pastoral Support

Miss Robinson  
Post 16 Administrator