



Weekly Bulletin for Parents & Carers

Week commencing Monday 11th November 2019

Principal's Message

We are altering our communications system so that it becomes more efficient and I would like to outline one of the changes.

It will no longer be possible to dial directly into school to talk to the Year Leaders. The reason we are changing this is that if the Year Leader is not in their office, your message is left as a voicemail which is not the most effective method of communication. We would rather you got the opportunity to talk directly to the Year Leader or put your query to them in an email. In future if you do want to talk to a Year leader please call the main office number and our staff will attempt to put you through. If they are not in their office you will be given the option of calling back later or sending the Year Leader an email which they will respond to.

We will be launching a Parental Communications policy later this year which will contain further details.

Mark McKelvie
Principal

General Notices

Children in Need - Friday 15th November

This Friday 15th November all of Pudsey Grangefield School will celebrate Children in Need. For a donation of £1 (to be paid on Parent Mail) students will be able to attend in non-school uniform.

In addition to non-school uniform, our Year 7 and 8 students will be running fundraising activities on the day at break time. This is a tradition at Pudsey Grangefield school and we expect students to really take a lead with the activities and fundraising. They will get the opportunity in Form Time to prepare all aspects of their activity (advertising, costing, prizes etc). We would also like to thank parents/carers for their support with these fundraising activities.

The main event for charity day will take place in the main hall at lunch time. Staff will be giving up their time and putting their bodies on the line in a "War of the Floors - Children in Need Tug of War." It will cost students £1 to enter and watch in the main hall.

All the money raised will go directly to Children in Need.

Over the years we have raised thousands of pounds for local, national and worldwide charities thanks to the generosity of our parents/carers, students and staff.



Attendance

Please find attached a useful Parent Guide to Attendance.

Excellent attendance is extremely important as it has a direct link to students' positive academic achievement and therefore to their long-term future prospects. The leaflet demonstrates how a number of absences that parents may not perceive as being important, actually add up to a significant period of absence. It also gives helpful tips on how you can support your child to improve their attendance.

The expectation in law is that parents ensure their children attend school regularly. The government expects schools and local authorities to promote good attendance, and to act early to address patterns of absence. At Pudsey Grangefield we follow statutory guidance and also the advice of the Local Authority to implement robust procedures – some of which are listed below for your information:

- Early warning letters – parents of students whose attendance falls below 97% will receive a letter saying that for any further absences there will need to be medical evidence.
- Medical appointments – wherever possible, medical appointments should be arranged before or after school. For appointments during the school day, evidence will need to be seen in advance of the date. Students are expected to attend school before and/or after the appointment, and be in the correct uniform.
- Holidays / Leave - Amendments to the Education (Pupil Registration) Regulations in relation to term time holidays on 1st September 2013, make it clear that schools are no longer allowed to authorise holidays during term time. As a result, only exceptional circumstance leave can be authorised by the Principal and **must be applied for on the correct form, prior to the leave being taken**. The form can be found on our website:

<http://www.pudseygrangefield.co.uk/for-parents-carers/attendance/>

Categories of absence that we are instructed by the Local Authority should **never** be considered exceptional are:

- Availability of cheaper holidays
- Birthdays
- Trips to see sporting or musical events
- Day trip
- Shopping or visit to hairdresser
- Over-sleeping
- Taking a long weekend
- Family celebration
- Leave at key transition points or during examination periods

Leave taken that is unauthorised by the Principal could result in a Penalty Notice being issued by the Local Authority.

Non-attendance for over 10 days – any student who has been absent from school for more than 10 days without the school's permission will be referred to the Local Authority.

Mrs Martin – Deputy Principa



Uniform

Please could parents support the uniform policy regarding piercings. Students are permitted to have one stud earring per ear. They are not allowed to have hooped earrings and they are not permitted to have any form of facial piercing. Students in breach of this policy will be asked to remove it initially. Any further instances or refusal to remove it will lead to them being placed in isolation until the piercing is removed.

Mrs Martin – Deputy Principal

Year 7 and 8

Year 7 - Progress Update 1

Massive congratulations to students receiving their first progress update report this week.

Parents/carers have been provided with feedback for their child's attitude to learning. We focus on three key focus areas: behaviour, classwork, and homework. Year 7 students have recorded an impressive 2.30 average for ATL grades in PU1.

Congratulations to the students who were in the top 10 ATL grades

Top 10 girls

Emily Lawton
Eve Simenton
Isabella Ayton
Nina Keith
Taila Germaine
Ebony Norton
Klaudia Jaszczak
Emily Smith
Isabella Corbin-Smith
Enawagnon Eneduwa

Top 10 boys

Jakub Szamuk
Filbert Uzoho
Max Orton
Olivia Markiewicz
Henry Fillingham
Noah Cornes
Jakub Glodzinski
Szymon Pastuszka
Vigo Varna0Uskalis
Jake Hodgkin

Year 7 Parents Evening - Thursday 7th November

We would like to thank all parents and carers for their attendance at the Year 7 Parents Evening on Thursday evening. The evening was very well attended and the feedback from parents/carers was



extremely positive. Staff have commented on how impressed they have been with the start our Year 7 students have made and we hope they continue to build on their success.

Mr Matthews – Year 7 & 8 Director of Studies

Year 9

West Leeds Activity Centre

Ten students have been selected to attend an activity session as part of a rewards scheme. These students have had outstanding ATL score and have gone above and beyond in their first half term in Year 9. This will involve a 2 hour session where the students will take part in different physical activities. Well done to those students who have been selected.

Assembly Focus

As we have started a new half term the students have had an assembly on focusing on the future. Students have been reminded about presentation and expectations in lessons in order to get the most out of their school experience. Year 9 have had a great start to their year and we hope to see this continue all the way through the year.

Progress Update

The data collection has been completed by staff at the end of the last half term and parents are to expect the first progress report next week. This report will show the ATL scores for each subject and attendance figures so far. Please expect to receive this week commencing 11th November.

Mrs A Mitchell – Year 9 Director of Studies

Year 10 and 11

Year 10 Maths Trial Exam

All students in Year 10 will sit a trial exam in Maths on Friday 22nd November. More details will be provided in lessons over the coming week.

Trial Exams

Dear parent and carers, this message is a reminder that trial exams begin on Tuesday 12th November and run over the next two weeks. The timetable can be found at:

<http://www.pudseygrange.co.uk/years-7-11/year-11/>



Lessons will run as normal around the exams, but English and Maths after school sessions will be postponed for the next two weeks.

Good luck to all our brilliant Year 11s! Please make sure they are doing lots of independent revision over this period as the exams a big challenge.

Mr Rand - Assistant Principal

Supporting Attendance

Maintaining a positive attendance at school is integral to students achieving their full potential. The government set 'good' attendance at 95%. There are many things you can do to support your child with attendance, below are a few suggestions for Year 10 and 11 students:

- Ensure they get plenty of sleep and remove devices from their bedrooms. Lack of sleep or poor sleep pattern is a common reason for poor attendance and punctuality.
- Talk to them about their work and day at school. Ask them to explain about their work - This is a great revision technique too.
- Ensure they pack their bag the night before.
- Ensure they eat breakfast and are up and ready promptly in the morning.

Please also do contact the school if you need any further support with this.

Mr Sammons – Year 10 & 11 Director of Studies

Post 16

Year 13 UCAS Applications - Personal Statement Drop In Session

Leeds City College Higher Education Department will be in school on Thursday 14th November 1pm-2pm for a personal statement drop in session. Students should bring a paper copy of their statement for feedback.

Mrs Smith – Year 12 & 13 Director of Studies Miss Fisher – Post 16 Pastoral Support & Careers Lead
