

**PARENT & CARER
WEEKLY BULLETIN**
Friday 8th March 2024

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

We welcomed Headteachers and Senior Leaders from five schools from across the North of England to our National Behaviour Hub Open Day yesterday. All of the schools are rated as good by Ofsted and they were extremely impressed with the school, our students and staff.

Yesterday was also World Book Day and our students were invited to vote on their favourite book. Amidst stiff competition the most popular choice was the highly popular Hunger Games series by Suzanne Collins. We have invested heavily in our Library and our Librarian, Ms Martin, is keen to support any student who is interested in reading.

The Muslim holy month of Ramadan begins early next week and finishes with the festival of Eid on Tuesday 9th of April. Many of our Muslim students choose to fast during the hours of sunrise and sunset and we have created a prayer space if they wish to use it for 15 minutes during their lunch interval.

Mark McKelvie
Headteacher

GENERAL NOTICES

Book Donations!

I am reaching out to request your support for an exciting initiative! As the school prepares for the Pudsey Carnival on May 18th, we're in need of book donations. Our plan is to host a "secret book" stall at the carnival, managed by our wonderful Sixth Form students. We are looking for books suitable for children aged 11-18, so if you have any gently used books lying around, we'd be grateful for your contributions! Please ask students to bring book donations to Mrs. Martin in the library or Miss Robinson in the Sixth Form area!

Miss Robinson
Post 16 Administrator

Ramadan – PE Lessons

Please read the following information below regarding PE at Pudsey Grammar School and Ramadan.



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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 lesson as we would still expect them to take an additional role/ part in the lesson as a referee/coach/umpire.

Mr McCroakam
Subject Leader of PE

World Book Day & The PGS Book Awards

World Book Day was, once again, a huge success this year! An incredible 261 votes were submitted for our first ever PGS Book Awards, with all students who participated earning points for their houses in the process. There was a variety of activities going on in the Library throughout the day, including a book character scavenger hunt and a code-cracking murder case, which students thoroughly enjoyed. Students were read an excerpt of the award-winning 'A Monster Calls' by Patrick Ness throughout the day in their lessons. This book, along with many other books by Patrick Ness, is available to be borrowed from the school Library.

This year's World Book Day theme was 'Read Your Way'. We encourage all of our students to read in whatever way suits them best, as all readers are different. Whether they enjoy eBooks or graphic novels, read for hours at a time or just ten minutes before bed, all reading is valid and valuable!

Ms Martin
Librarian

Punctuality to School/Lessons

As well as regular attendance at school, parents need to ensure that their child arrives at school in good time each morning. Being late for school has many negative consequences such as:

- Gets the day off to a bad start
- Increases stress and upset for the child
- Can lead to the child feeling embarrassed and singled out
- Affects the child's overall confidence
- Disrupts the learning of other class members
- Creates bad habits which could lead to poor attendance
- Confusion for your child as work or activities might have been started

Attendance Team



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NO FEE SCHOOL UNIFORM - URGENT PLEA FOR UNWANTED, GOOD QUALITY UNIFORM & PE KIT

We are keen to get the uniform shop well stocked and running again as soon as possible. We rely on the kind donations of our parents and carers to stock the uniform store. We would be grateful if you could please donate any good quality uniform that you no longer require. We are reaching out to all our parents and carers to ask for ongoing donations to help make this project a success.

Donations – We would ask that uniform and PE items (including football boots) be handed in to Reception.

We are working hard to reduce waste, promote the benefits of recycling unwanted clothing to help our environment and support families in our community during the cost of living crisis.

The initiative is non-profit for school and there is no cost to our parents/carers. Donated items will be laundered and placed on our website. Parents/carers can go onto the website and select the items they would like. Uniform can be collected from the school Reception. This helps us to ensure the key message of sustainability (avoiding good quality clothing going to landfill sites) can sit at the heart of the project.

Uniform will be available to purchase on our uniform website, UniformD, at <https://app.uniformd.co.uk/items/193> when we have sufficient stock.

Thank you for your continued support.

Ms Frost
PA to the Headteacher – Mark McKelvie
& Communications/Office Manager

Foreign Language Books

Our students at Pudsey Grammar School speak and write in a huge variety of languages other than English. To support them with this, the Library contains fiction books in the following languages: French, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, Polish, Russian, Arabic, Punjabi and Mandarin. We also have bilingual dictionaries and revision resources available.

If your child would like to borrow a book from our Languages section, they can ask Ms Martin or Ms Jovanovic for more information. The specific titles of these books can be found using the Reading List tab on their Reading Cloud account.

Ms Martin
Librarian

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Year 7, 8 and 9 Poetry Workshop

Matt Abbott, poet, educator and educational activist, will be leading an interactive poetry session on Wednesday 13th March. Matt will be working in a small group setting to nurture student confidence, expand their creative writing skills and support their ability to maturely articulate themselves.

The workshop will take place 8:50am – 3:00pm. Times of the sessions are as follows:

Year 7- period 1 and 2

Year 9- period 3

Year 8- period 4 and 5.

If your child is involved in one of these sessions then they will be provided with a slip with details of the timings and the location. You will also receive a message next week.

Miss Roberts

Assistant Subject Leader of English

YEAR 7

This week, students in Year 7 have celebrated World Book Day where there have been events taking place to celebrate reading in school. Students were able to vote for their favourite book and a number of books were shortlisted as the most popular books, Form groups were able to submit votes and the Form with the most votes, won a prize! All of the books that were listed in the competition are available to be borrowed from the Library. Classes were then able to read a book as a group during each lesson period on Thursday. This was a fantastic opportunity for students to continue fostering a love of reading.

Mr Leigh

Year 7 Director of Studies

Miss Mathie

Year 7 Leader

YEAR 8

World Book Day

We had a fantastic World Book Day on Thursday, where all students took part in a reading task throughout the day. Students have also been given book tokens to help them purchase any books that interest them. Hopefully this kind of event can inspire a passion for reading in our students.

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Uniform

Year 8 uniform, since returning from half term, had generally been at a really high standard. However, this week we have seen an increase in students not wearing correct uniform. We have seen an increase in the number of fake eyelashes being worn, leggings instead of trousers and even students turning up without their school bags. Students will either be asked to change into school trousers or given detentions for no bags. Please look at the Uniform policy on the school website for any clarification.

Mr Lucas
Year 8 Director of Studies

Miss Crosland
Year 8 Leader

YEAR 9

World Book Day

Form 9DB won our World Book Day competition, for voting for their favourite book. During each lesson on Thursday, students read part of the first chapter of 'A Monster Calls' by Patrick Ness. The author won a Carnegie Medal for this book.

Guided Choices Evening

We will be holding a Guided Choices evening on Tuesday 19th March 5:00pm-7:00 pm. Students will have an assembly on the process next week. The evening will consist of a presentation and then an opportunity to visit all the subjects and speak to staff about the subjects and courses on offer.

Duke of Edinburgh

Well done to all the Year 9 students who took part in the expedition this week.

Mrs Mitchell
Year 9 Director of Studies

Miss Exley
Year 9 Leader

YEAR 10

We have received some reports of anti-social behaviour in the local community recently. We kindly request your vigilance in guiding your child and setting clear boundaries for their conduct outside of school. Emphasising the importance of respectful behaviour contributes to a positive wider community.

This week, we've focused on maintaining high uniform standards. Consistent adherence to uniform guidelines reflects positively on our students overall behaviour. Year 10 have

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responded very well and have made sure that where there was a uniform issue they have resolved it for the following day.

Your continued support is appreciated in fostering a positive and respectful school community.

Miss Legg
Year 10 Director of Studies

Miss Birdsall
Year 10 Leader

YEAR 11

Year 11 Exam Success Evening

Parents and carers are invited to the Year 11 Exam Success Evening on 26th March, 5:15pm-6:30pm. There will be insightful talks from the English and Maths departments as well as talks in relation to preparing for exams. On the evening, we will be providing resources to take away and there will be an opportunity to speak to the staff if you have any questions. Please make a note of this key date and we hope to see you there.

After School Tutorials

The after-school tutorials have been a huge success. I was very pleased to see so many students attending and engaging in the sessions. If students have not attended this week, please encourage them to do so.

Monday - option subjects
Tuesday - Maths
Wednesday - Science
Thursday - English
Friday - option subjects

Please see the attached pdf document for the full timetable.

Year 11 History Intervention

The History Department will be running its next set of History Intervention sessions on Monday 4th March. The following two sessions will occur:-

Room 113 - 8 Mark Consequence Question- American West (Miss Burgum)
Room 114 - Crime and Punishment 1000AD-1700AD (Mr Alderson)

A timetable with an overview of all of these upcoming sessions, who will run them, their location and their focus can be found linked below. Printed versions of this timetable will also be displayed around the History Department and Year Office for students to refer to. Attendance to these sessions is not mandatory, but is highly encouraged to assist with

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students making additional progress in History.

Link to Intervention timetable overview:-

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1P0rS0xYbDsUyvyMOV6lq_u367vKzFbJRDvJaxCZ0Is/edit?usp=sharing

If you have any further questions or queries with regard to these interventions, please do feel free to contact me on r.alderston@pudseygrammar.co.uk.

Mr Syed
Year 11 Director of Studies

Mrs Swithenbank
Year 11 Leader

SIXTH FORM

Important Dates

Year 12

W/c 18th March – Year 12 & Year 13 Interview Skills Workshop
18th April - Year 12 Parents Evening
19th June - Year 12 UCAS Fair at Leeds Beckett University
9th to 12th July – Year 12 Paris Trip

Year 13

W/c 18th March – Year 12 & Year 13 Interview Skills Workshop
22nd March - Year 13 Student Finance with Sophie Craven (University of Huddersfield)
27th March – Year 13 Revision & Success Evening @ 6:00pm-7:00pm
Easter Holidays Coursework and Revision Sessions
10th May – Year 13 Final Assembly and Inflatables Event
28th June – Year 13 Prom at Headingley Cricket Club

Year 12 & Year 13 Summer Examinations

This week, students have received a copy of their 'Statement of Entry', 'Exam Timetable' and 'Student Essential Guide for Exams' booklet. Students should ensure that they read through each document carefully to ensure that they understand the processes and that their entries/timetable are correct.

Year 12 & Year 13 Assessment #2 w/c Monday 11th March

Next week is our second assessment week for both Year 12 and Year 13 students. All students should know when their assessments will take place and how they should prepare. If there are any questions or concerns, students should speak to a member of the Sixth Form Team.



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Year 13 Success Evening Wednesday 27th March

We will be holding a Year 13 Success Evening on Wednesday 27th March at 6:00pm. The evening will include further information about exams, support and next steps as we draw closer to the examinations. We would like both parents and students to attend to ensure that everyone has everything they need to achieve as well as possible in their forthcoming Post 16 qualifications.

Please use the following link to book your place to attend this event. One booking admits 3 people (1 student and 2 adults). If you would like more than one parent/carer/family member to attend please email sixthform@pudseygrammar.co.uk to make them aware of how many individuals will be attending. <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/null/t-xmjexla>

Opportunity

EY (Ernst & Young) Virtual Career Information Session for students, parents and carers. Join us on Wednesday 13th March from 6:30pm – 7:pm for an overview of the career pathways available at EY. Learn about what apprenticeships they offer and how you can support your young person with career options. Hear directly from their apprentices on programme as they share their experiences and why they chose EY. Put your questions to the team to gain up to date information on tips for applications, where, when and how to apply.

Sign up here:-

<https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/18db52e6-0f77-4195-9bec-d0afe11afa4a@2c8c4c97-6926-4adc-ac27-287bc4c1c16b>

Mrs Smith
Post 16 Director of Studies

Ms Nota
Attendance and Pastoral Support

Miss Robinson
Post 16 Administrator

Miss Kenny
Careers and Enrichment Lead
