



**PARENT & CARER  
WEEKLY BULLETIN**  
Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024

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## HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

We had some exciting news earlier this week regarding our students' trip to China. Our school has been selected to go to Shanghai. The trip lasts 11 days and we are taking 20 students and two members of staff. The Mandarin Excellence Programme is run jointly by the British Council and University College London and we are one of only 70 schools out of 4000 across the country who have been selected to be part of the prestigious programme.

On Wednesday we held our annual Careers Fair and for the first time we opened it up to all students across the school. We had over 40 local, national and international employers, colleges, universities, the emergency services and military. The event allows all students to talk directly to staff from each organisation about a career and the emphasis is on students understanding the wide range of future employment opportunities there are and the importance of gaining the best grades they are capable of in school.

Finally, today is the day that Year 6 parents find out if they have secured a place at the school for their child. As I mentioned in previous messages, we had 350 first choice applications for the 215 places we have in Year 7 so unfortunately there will be some disappointed parents and children. We are looking forward to welcoming our new Year 7s and their parents into the school over the coming months in advance of the new academic year.

**Mark McKelvie**  
Headteacher

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## GENERAL NOTICES

### **PwC Virtual insight Programme – Year 11 and 12**

For Year 11 and 12 students across the UK, applications are now open for PwC's Virtual Insight Programme. Taking place from 29<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> July 2024, students will have the chance to learn about PwC's different business areas, their culture and ways you can join PwC through interactive sessions over 3 days. Students will receive guidance and top tips on the application process and support building their skill set to prepare them for the workplace.

Your child may be unsure about their career interests, so this programme is the perfect chance to reflect on apprenticeships, university or alternatives for future options.

Why not encourage your child to apply to enhance their employability skills for the future? Apply here:



## **PARENT & CARER WEEKLY BULLETIN**

[https://www.pwc.co.uk/careers/early-careers/our-programmes/insight-weeks.html?utm\\_source=uk\\_rec\\_recruiter\\_comms&utm\\_medium=ct3-dm2-at-1-pl200-&utm\\_campaign=email-vip-aheadpartnership-fy24](https://www.pwc.co.uk/careers/early-careers/our-programmes/insight-weeks.html?utm_source=uk_rec_recruiter_comms&utm_medium=ct3-dm2-at-1-pl200-&utm_campaign=email-vip-aheadpartnership-fy24)

Mrs Burgum  
Assistant Headteacher

### **Shared electronic devices**

A reminder to parents when electronic devices are being shared at home, or if you are giving your child access to a device which you have previously used. If sharing a device with family members, please ensure you log out of any accounts which use your personal details, including email accounts. If you are giving a used device to your child for their use, erase your personal data beforehand.

The link to the National Cyber Security Centre here provides more information.

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/section/information-for/individuals-families>

Mrs Collinge  
Data Manager

### **PGS Book Awards - World Book Day**

Monday the 4th of March is the last day that students will be able to vote for the winner of the PGS Book Awards. The shortlisted books are:

The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins  
Wonder by R. J. Palacio  
Heartstopper by Alice Oseman  
Percy Jackson by Rick Riordan  
The Maze Runner by James Dashner

Students get positive points for voting, as well as earning a point for their House. The winning book will be announced on World Book Day (Thursday 7th March) along with the winning Forms and house that have submitted the most votes.

All students will have received a book token last week. Book tokens can be exchanged for the £1 books on offer this year which are available at most booksellers.

<https://www.worldbookday.com/books-and-tokens/books/>

Ms Martin  
Librarian



## **PARENT & CARER WEEKLY BULLETIN**

### **PE Extra Curricular**

PE extra-curricular clubs have started again this half term, they run from 3pm until 4pm. Students should speak to PE staff to ensure that they are attending the right club on the right day, please see the clubs below:

Tuesdays - football club (boys and girls)

Wednesday - badminton/basketball/rugby club

Thursday - netball club

Mr McCroakam

Subject Leader of PE

### **Self-Care**

As advised in previous bulletins, we will be putting information into our Parent Bulletin at the beginning of each month around Self Care. The information is from Action for Happiness, and is part of their GREAT DREAM campaign. This month's information is around 'Awareness' and can be found via the link below:

<https://actionforhappiness.org/10-keys/awareness>

Mrs Williams

Director of Safeguarding & Senior Mental Health Lead

### **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.



## **PARENT & CARER WEEKLY BULLETIN**

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.

Mrs Frost  
PA to the Headteacher & Office Manager

### **KPMG: International Women's Day 2024 – Year 11, 12 and 13**

I am delighted to share with you an exciting opportunity to celebrate International Women's Day with KPMG on 6th March 2024, 4pm-5pm. This virtual event can be attended by yourself alongside your child.

Please register using the QR CODE via the attached poster to hear directly from talented women at KPMG, discuss their achievements and how KPMG has inspired them to thrive at work. Share your questions with a panel of senior speakers, current graduates and apprentice trainees.

By registering for this event, you will be invited to attend an application follow up session at 12.30pm on the 7th March. This session will provide you with an overview of the KPMG application process and top tips for 2024 applications.

Mrs Burgum  
Assistant Headteacher

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## **YEAR 7**

Year 7 students have made a good start to the new half term, it is important that students are continuously getting the 'small things' right:

- Turning up on time to Form and lessons
- Arriving to lessons ready to learn and engage
- Having all equipment every day, including planner, knowledge organiser and reading book
- Completing homework for deadlines that have been set
- Respecting others within the school community during lesson and social times

Year 7 have had a fantastic opportunity this week to attend a careers fair right here at PGS. We had over 40 local, national and international employers, colleges, universities, the emergency services and military. Although Year 7 students have only recently started their journey with us at PGS, it is important that their future is given a thought and this gave students some fantastic insight into potential careers.



## **PARENT & CARER WEEKLY BULLETIN**

As well as this Careers Fair, Year 7 will have the opportunity to take part in a careers panel next week to further discuss future careers. This will consist of professionals presenting to our students about their different career sectors and personal journeys.

Mr Leigh  
Year 7 Director of Studies

Miss Mathie  
Year 7 Leader

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## **YEAR 8**

### **Careers Week**

This week has been careers week at school with a number of events involving the students to let them see all the opportunities out there for them to explore. Year 8 took part in a career carousel where a number of different representatives from a wide mix of industries came in. They offered a variety of different activities and were very interactive, going around the different classrooms it was great to see the amount of students getting involved and learning about new job opportunities. Hopefully it can inspire students or at the very least give them something to think about.

Mr Lucas  
Year 8 Director of Studies

Miss Crosland  
Year 8 Leader

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## **YEAR 9**

### **Careers Fair**

This week Year 9 took part in the Careers Fair. This was a great opportunity for students and they conducted themselves brilliantly throughout their sessions.

### **Progress Update**

All students should have their second progress update, if they have not received it yet then please contact Form tutors and check if they have it. If not I can print another one out.

### **Guided Choices Subject Fair Tuesday 19th 5pm-7pm**

We are holding our Options Evening. This will enable you to visit all subject areas and ask any questions you may have about the GCSE courses and speak to the Year team about the Guided Choices process.

Mrs Mitchell  
Year 9 Director of Studies

Miss Exley  
Year 9 Leader



## **PARENT & CARER WEEKLY BULLETIN**

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### **YEAR 10**

#### **Careers**

Year 10 students had two fantastic career-oriented experiences this week. Some students participated in mock interviews, showcasing their skills, while all students had the opportunity to explore diverse career paths at the Careers Fair. We're proud of how our students conducted themselves during these events, and we hope they gained some valuable insights for their future endeavors.

#### **Progress Reports**

The latest progress reports for Year 10 students will be available next week. We encourage you to take the time to review these reports with your child, and encourage you to schedule an appointment with our staff for the virtual Parents' Evening on March 14th. This will be a valuable opportunity to discuss your child's progress report, address any questions, and support their academic success.

Miss Legg  
Year 10 Director of Studies

Miss Birdsall  
Year 10 Leader

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### **YEAR 11**

#### **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 - 16 Mark How far do you agree (Mr Bassett)  
Room 114 - Germany 1933-39 (Miss Skitt)

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 students making additional progress in History.

Link to Intervention timetable overview:

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1P0rS0xYbDs-UyvyMOV61q\\_u367vKzFbJRDvJaxCZ0Is/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1P0rS0xYbDs-UyvyMOV61q_u367vKzFbJRDvJaxCZ0Is/edit?usp=sharing)

If you have any further questions or queries in regard to these interventions, please do feel free to contact me on [r.alderson@pudseygrammar.co.uk](mailto:r.alderson@pudseygrammar.co.uk).



## **PARENT & CARER WEEKLY BULLETIN**

### **Year 11 GCSE Drama students**

Year 11 GCSE Drama students will be involved in all day exam work on Monday 4th March. They are to go to Form in the morning to get their mark. Then they need to be in the Drama Studio for 8.50am. They will have breaks and lunch at normal time.

### **End of Year**

As the end of the year approaches, we are currently working on the end of year celebrations. We just wanted to let you know some key dates and important information.

Wednesday 6th March - Photo Day. This will involve all students having an individual photo as well as a whole year group one.

Thursday 27th June - Prom. This will take place this year at The Headingley Cricket Stadium. More details on the cost of this and timings will be sent as soon as this is available. We are also compiling the Year Book and looking at suppliers for leavers hoodies.

All students have been set a piece of homework by Mrs Swithenbank to complete some information to go in the Year Book. More information will be sent home soon regarding all of the end of year celebrations. Please keep a look out in future bulletins.

### **Year 11 After School Tutorials**

The after-school tutorials have been a huge success in the first week of running them. 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. There is something to join throughout the week and core lessons Tuesday-Thursday. Please see the attached timetable.

Mr Syed  
Year 11 Director of Studies

Mrs Swithenbank  
Year 11 Leader

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## **SIXTH FORM**

### **Important Dates**

#### **Year 12**

W/c 11th March – Year 12 & Year 13 Assessment Week #2 (classroom based)

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 11th March – Year 12 & Year 13 Assessment Week #2 (classroom based)

W/c 18th March – Year 12 & Year 13 Interview Skills Workshop



## **PARENT & CARER WEEKLY BULLETIN**

22nd March – Year 13 Student Finance with Sophie Craven (University of Huddersfield)

27th March – Year 13 Revision & Success Evening @ 6.00-7.00pm

Easter Holidays - Coursework and Revision Sessions

10th May – Year 13 Final Assembly and Inflatables Event

28th June – Year 13 Prom at Headingley Cricket Club

On Wednesday, Kelvin Akhigbe from The Sutton Trust delivered an insightful presentation on the free university residential opportunities the charity provides. His first-hand experience and reflections exhibited the potential of the programme in shaping higher education decisions. The event sparked enthusiasm among our Year 12 students, with eight students already applying for the programme. We eagerly anticipate Kelvin's return next year to continue inspiring our students towards their academic aspirations.

This week we also welcomed Nadia from Kooth to our Sixth Form assembly. Kooth provides young people with immediate wellbeing support without the need for a formal referral.

During the assembly Nadia spoke about what mental health is, the barriers around talking about it, what can help young people to talk about mental health and how Kooth can support. Kooth is a free, safe and anonymous online wellbeing service for children and young people. For further information regarding the service and support provided by Kooth, please visit their website <https://www.kooth.com/>

### **Opportunity**

Leeds Kirkgate Market NHS Job Fair - Mental Health Trusts - 7th March 2024

This event will be an opportunity to speak directly to recruiters and organisations that provide support, including: Leeds and York Partnership Foundation Trust (LYPFT), South West Yorkshire Partnership Foundation Trust (SWYPFT), Bradford District Care NHS Foundation Trust, Touchstone, Leeds Health and Care Academy, Leeds University LifeLong Learning Centre, Path Yorkshire, Virgin Money Data Bank and Forward Leeds. For more information please visit <https://touchstonesupport.org.uk/employmentsupport/>

Mrs Smith  
Post 16 Director of Studies

Ms Nota  
Attendance and Pastoral Support

Miss Robinson  
Post 16 Administrator

Miss Kenny  
Careers and Enrichment Lead