



Horsforth School

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Our Ref: PCB/TRH/JFI

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Dear Parent/Carer,

Firstly, apologies if our early closure inconvenienced you. As the weather was worsening and further heavy snow was forecast I made the decision to close so all students and staff could get home safely. I am sorry if this caused you any difficulties.

Secondly, it was a pleasure to see all the parents who came to our SEND parent's forum on Wednesday. Thank you for attending and Mrs Warne, our SENDCo is looking forward to seeing you at the drop-ins and at other new engagement events so we can keep in touch. I found some of the suggestions really useful and we will be looking now at how we can put some of these in place.

Safeguarding Updates

As you know from time to time, we like to update you on aspects or themes of our safeguarding work. I would like to share with you some key messages and concerns.

Anti-Bullying

Bullying is rare at Horsforth but when and if it occurs we will act swiftly. It is essential that your child reports incidents at school and ideally on the day, that way we can act as quickly as possible. All students in years 7 to 13 have been given a very clear message about the consequences of bullying and in particular online bullying and how we will respond to this. Please be assured that we will address any unkind or hurtful behaviours, including derogatory language. A reminder that students must report this type of behaviour to their safe adults or they can do so by using the HELP ME reporting button on the VLE or by reporting to any staff at school.

Youth Produced Sexual Imagery – 'Sexting'

Throughout last year and through PSHCE (Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education) this year we have worked hard on raising awareness of the dangers of sexting. We reminded our students in September and January that it is an offence for any young people to produce sexual imagery, or download it, or pass it on to others.

Unfortunately, we have had to investigate several incidents this term whereby students have committed this offence. We also have a duty to report this to the police. We have delivered some hard-hitting messages around child criminal and sexual exploitation and how social media is being used as a tool for this. This has been done with both staff and students. As a reminder to yourselves, 'sexting' is illegal and the age of the person sending or receiving does not matter. Even storing an illicit image on a phone or

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mobile device is illegal. To find out more, please use the link below. www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/sexting/

Diversity

We continue to work hard to raise the awareness of diversity in our school community, creating an environment where young people feel secure to be themselves in a supportive and accepting environment. We have a terrific group of students who lead the Diversity Group alongside Mrs Gledhill, they are currently working hard to produce resources to help further educate students

Self-Harm

Unfortunately, some students are using self-harm to cope with or express overwhelming emotions and stresses. We do have mental health first aiders in school who have received specialist training on how to manage, deal with and support students who self-harm. We treat each student individually and we will always notify parents and carers if we suspect self-harm. Please do take time with your child if you suspect they may have self-harmed and please use the links below for more information about self-harm. We hope that our work on mental health will help prevent this in the future and equip students with distraction strategies and other ways to manage their emotions.

www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/self-harm

www.addaction.org.uk/advice-and-information/young-people/self-harm-help-for-parents-and-carers

Child Protection

We have a designated team of specialist trained staff who deal with many aspects of safeguarding, and in particular Child Protection. As a reminder the Designated Lead for Child Protection is Mrs Nowell, Deputy Head. It is our duty of care to monitor and investigate issues of concern and we do work with and liaise with children's social work services to support our children and their families.

Please do note that we do receive domestic violence notifications from the police, this is part of the local authorities processes and schools are expected to respond to these by calling home and speaking with students.

Weapons Awareness Talks – Year 10

As part of our statutory PSHCE education, on the 21st February, all of Year 10 will have specialist talks delivered by the police on the dangers and risks of weapons including knives. They will learn key safety messages as well as skills for looking after themselves and others. The police have commissioned these talks for all schools in Leeds which tie in with the 'Knife Angel' tour which is currently at the Royal Armouries in Leeds. There will be a chance for Q&A to tailor each session and the sessions are age appropriate.

Health, Wellbeing and Safety Week

Our annual Health, Wellbeing and Safety Week takes place w/c 26th February. This is a focussed week where we extend our personal development offer for our students, promoting skills for now and into adult life to support their emotional wellbeing.

During this week students in Years 7-11 will have specialist talks and Form Times around the importance of keeping good physical and mental health with practical tips for both. We have guest speakers from KOOTH promoting their free counselling service and top tips for keeping emotionally well and how to look out for others. Students have the chance to sign up for a range of activities after school and at lunch

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which promote health and wellbeing. As always, we are promoting the 5 ways to wellbeing from the NHS and in addition Year 9 will have a talk from Leeds Rhino's about being mentally fit.

As a main focus for our safeguarding talks this year, we are focussing on weapons awareness and have a guest speaker for Years 10-13, and a film package, with police talks for lower school. This forms part of our response to the tragic incident last year in the community and is part of statutory requirements for PSHCE.

Online safety remains a key focus for this week also, as such we do remind parents to make sure they are monitoring their child's phone usage, use of apps, internet and social media. Unfortunately, it is not uncommon for some of our students to have fallen foul of online predators wanting indecent images of children. As a prelude to the event we have attached a newsletter about online safety with important information about gaming, Fortnite, social media, YouTube etc. We urge you to read this. It really does help for parents to be aware of the law and current risks. Further details of this week will come out nearer to the time.

Uniform Standards

We have no doubts that having high standards and expectations all round is one of the reasons you chose Horsforth School for your son/daughter. With the half term closing, some students have begun to push the boundaries around school uniform and are very quickly building up comments and confiscations leading to detentions. Repeat incidents sometimes result in high level sanctions for not adhering fully to school policy. To prevent this happening any further, and so we can resume our focus on teaching and learning, we please ask that you ensure your child is dressed according to the School policy, taking note of our main concerns below.

We thank you in advance of your continued support and full details of the policy are found on our website.

- Students must wear black shoes, no pumps, trainers or boots. Medical notes from a GP/medical professional (with a time frame) are the only exemption to not wearing shoes.
- Students are not allowed to wear leggings or jeans.
- Students must wear full length trousers (not 3/4 length) or the Horsforth School skirt.
- Students must have only 1 pair of small studs in their ears, lower lobe. No other piercings are permitted including nose rings or studs. Jewellery will be confiscated (returned at the end of each term) and students will be withdrawn to the inclusion room if this rule is not followed.
- Students can wear 1 plain ring only. No other jewellery. Bracelets of any kind, necklaces and other rings will be confiscated and returned at the end of the term.
- Students are not permitted to wear nail varnish, false nails, excessive make up, false eyelashes, have eyelash extensions or unnatural hair colours/dye.
- Complete shaven heads & maw hawk-like hairstyles are not permitted. Neither are lines, or other shapes/symbols etc, shaved into hair.
- It is essential that students wear the correct colour school tie. If they borrow a school tie, it must be returned that day or they will incur sanctions.

PE Kit and Standards

Alongside uniform, our students are to wear only Horsforth School PE branded kit – students' wearing any items of their own kit is **not permitted**.

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We do however, encourage students to wear base/extra layers underneath their PE kit during the winter months so that they are warm and comfortable in lessons. It is important that we make clear, any base layers or leggings are only permitted under Horsforth PE kit, i.e. under the students sports or tracksuit pants and students will not be allowed to wear leggings or base layers on their own.

We also ask that parents send students in with a kit, even when they are injured or ill, as students may need to go outside when indoor spaces are unavailable due to exams taking up the sports hall. This allows the pupils to get changed back into a dry and warm uniform if it has been raining outside. Students can also perform the role of a coach or umpire when they are unable to physically take part in the lesson and being in kit helps us accommodate this.

We do know uniform can be expensive and we have a second's supply which we can provide free of charge if you contact the HUB staff or your child's PBO. You can do this by emailing info@horsforthschool.org with email FAO: hub staff. We have a hardship fund which you can apply for by contacting school reception and asking to talk to the finance team directly. Most of the uniform rules we have are to ensure equity, practicality, basic standards, safeguarding, or are needed for health and safety. We thank you in advance for ensuring your child adheres to our expectations.



Boys and Girls PE kit	
Upper body	School logo white T-shirt - <i>Compulsory</i> (A) Black/ green plain rugby/hockey jersey top - <i>Compulsory</i> (C) School logo black fleece - <i>Optional</i> (B)
Lower body	School logo Black shorts - <i>Compulsory</i> (D) School logo Black tracksuit bottoms - <i>Optional</i> (F)
Feet	Green socks - <i>Compulsory</i> (E)
Feet	Sport trainers and football/ rugby boots for field - <i>Compulsory</i>
Extras	Gum shield is recommended for rugby/hockey - <i>Optional</i> Shin pads are essential for hockey/football - <i>Compulsory</i>

Borrowed School Uniform

If your child has borrowed an item of school uniform (tie, trousers, jumper, shoes etc.) it is important that these are returned after half term. School keep spare uniform for emergencies and our stocks are running low as items have not been returned.

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Year 9 Options

Reminder: The Year 9 Options evening will be held in school on Monday 19 February (first Monday back after half term) starting at 6.00pm for a presentation in the main hall followed by a chance to look around the subject stalls and ask questions until 7.30pm.

FI in Schools Regional Final

Yesterday some of our students went to York Stem Centre to compete in the FI in Schools Yorkshire Regional Finals. The teams had to race their cars (which they've been developing all year) against other schools and these cars had to stand up to a full scrutiny against a set of particular FI style specifications. Each team was also judged on a pit display, verbal presentation, engineering and development portfolio, and an enterprise portfolio.

They showed absolute tenacity and their race time was 10th out of 32. The team smashed through some very strong competition. For their first year, facing up against seasoned world finalists, this is a massive achievement. Congratulations!



Fab 5 Form Time

Throughout the week students with an Attitude to Learning score of 5 or above were treated to a 'Fab 5' Form Time event. They enjoyed a range of breakfast treats including pain au chocolates.



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Year 7 Sporting Achievement

We are thrilled to hear that Joseph and Lucas in Year 7 will be representing Leeds Schools Football Association at an upcoming tour in Spain.

This is one of the largest football tournaments hosted annually. Huge congratulations boys, and good luck!

CCF Success

On Tuesday this week our cadets completed a CCF Navigation Exercise at Gateways School. They were given a route and had to navigate themselves, which consisted of around four miles. Fortunately, the weather was better than expected!



Come and Work at our School

[Take a look at our Vacancies webpage](#) to view the current roles we are recruiting. At the moment we are looking for someone to join our SEND Team as a SEND Nurture Lead. You can always call the school for a chat about any of the jobs on offer on 0113 2265454. And please share with anyone you think might like to join our team.

Sports Fixtures

Year 9 Football

Year 9s had a league match against Benton Park on Tuesday night and came away with a hard fought 1-0 victory. Kupa and Josh were a physical presence at the back and needed to be to repel the excellent kicking from the Benton GK and the combative style of play from the home side. The game was very even but the boys definitely created the better chances with some wing wizardry by the Player of the Match Leo on the right of midfield, their quality finally paid off when Josh drove the ball home from 10 yards after a goal mouth scramble and two saves from the Benton goalkeeper.

Year 9 A Netball - Horsforth 6 v Woodhouse Grove School 15

Good battle from the girls from going 6-0 down in the first quarter to making a great come back throughout. Rebecca and Lily scored a few brilliant goals to bring the girls back into it! Unfortunately, during the last quarter Grove stepped it up and came back at us with some excellent shooting from the edge of the D. A good effort by all, especially our Player of the Match Lily for her excellent interceptions and goal scoring.

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Year 9 B Netball- Horsforth 3 v Woodhouse Grove School 2

An absolute brilliant effort from our newly put together B team, this team have never played as a team and they worked incredibly hard to get this win! Stand out performances from Amy, Imogen, Olivia and Iris and some excellent performances from our Year 8 girls who have played up a year group to support the Year 9 team in grabbing this win! Fantastic performances from all the girls, especially our Player of the Match, Poppy with some top class defending!

Year 10 and 11 Hockey

The Year 10 and 11 mixed Hockey team beat a 16-man squad from Gateways 4-3 with a hat-trick from Dylan and a goal from Tobin. Birthday girl Gracie captained the team brilliantly, and the other girls quickly overcame their early nerves to battle to a dazzling victory.

Sixth Form at Horsforth News

Year 13 Mock Exam Timetable

Mock exams will be taking place after the half term break, here's the timetable:

<https://www.horsforthschool.org/sixthform/letters-home-sixth-form/>

TikTok

Just before Christmas we launched our very own sixth form TikTok account. Most of what we share on there is created by our wonderful Year 12 social media team, so give them a follow:

https://www.tiktok.com/@sixthform_athorsforth

Yours faithfully

Dr P Bell
Headteacher