

Horsforth School

Lee Lane East Horsforth

Leeds LS18 5RF

Tel: 0113 226 5454

Fax: 0113 226 5401

Email: info@horsforthschool.org

Website: www.horsforthschool.org

Headteacher: Dr P C Bell

Our Ref: PCB/TRH/JFI

6th September 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

I would like to say well done to all our students this week! The uniform has been excellent, students have come back refreshed and there is a real positive buzz around school!

As always, the link to the podcast version is here:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1qqjX8kF2bLqY3jdFqBKJ2-T4MA7tE43q/view?usp=drive_link

Year 10 Information Evening

We are holding a Year 10 Information Evening on Thursday 12th September at 6pm for parents of students in Year 10 looking at how best to support your child over the coming two years as well as subject specific advice in English, Maths, Science and MFL. There will also be an opportunity to meet with pastoral and careers staff. Please look out for an email with further details.

Year 7 Lockers

Lockers and padlocks for year 7 are now available to purchase on Ipay. Please note students are welcome to bring their own padlocks.

Lost Property

Lost Property from last term requires collecting. Students need to come and have a look if they think they have lost something by the end of next week.

Students will need to go to the Pastoral Hub to ask a member of staff to go with them. Mr Hitchman is also available to help students look for lost items.

The School Run and Drop Off

When parents or carers are picking up or dropping off children at school can we please ask that you park safely and in accordance with any parking restrictions. Please do not drive on to the school site to drop your child off outside of school unless it has been pre-agreed such as for medical reasons e.g. broken leg.

We do appreciate that the school run is busy, and that finding a parking space right next to school is a challenge, however we want to remind parents/carers not to park on the yellow lines (single or double), the zigzags in front of school or across residents' drives. This parking restriction also applies to Disabled Blue Badge holders.

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This parking obstructs the paths and forces students to walk on the road, it causes traffic jams as well as blocking residents' access.

We open the doors at 8.00 to help ease the congestion over a 20-minute period.

Keeping our students safe is one of our top priorities and I'd like to thank everyone who supports this every day when taking and collecting students from school in the morning and at the end of the day.

We would like to encourage students where possible to come to school by walking, bike or scooter. The school has bike and scooter shelters on site that allows safe storage. This will help with congestion, our sustainable transport plan and promoting wellbeing and healthy lifestyle.

Key Dates 2024-25

Please find attached a Key Dates document for Year 7-11 students. Further details of any trips or visits that are running throughout the year can be found on the calendar section of the school website which will be fully populated next week.

Extra-curricular Clubs and activities

Next week a schedule for the large number of the lunchtime and after-school clubs and activities that we run will be emailed to all students and parents/carers. This will also include all GCSE exam support sessions currently on offer. Most of these activities will start next week.

School Photographs

Tempest Photographers will be in school on Friday 13th September in the morning to take individual photos of students in Year 7 and Year 10. Can you please ensure your son/daughter is wearing the correct full uniform.

Order forms will be sent home after the photos have been taken (usually within a few weeks) and if you wish to order photos they will be delivered to your home address. Thank you for your support.

Duke of Edinburgh Award update

Well done and congratulations to the Silver and Gold Award participants who completed and passed their assessed expeditions over the summer! Some serious miles were covered all over the Yorkshire Dales and Lake District. This weekend the Bronze Award participants have their in-school expedition training with Cohort 1 training on Saturday and Cohort 2 on Sunday, starting at 9am until 4pm. The session will prepare the Bronze Award participants for their practice and assessed expeditions over the coming weeks.

The New Positive Behaviour Policy

Please be reminded again that we have now started the new behaviour policy. All parents have been emailed this week a code to enable you to log in to your child's class charts app so you can see their rewards, behaviour log, sanctions, homework record, and detentions. Some parents have reported it going to their junk email, so do please check this also. Students have also been sent a code so they can download an app for their phones which they can view at home.

As this is such an important change, we have now given students 2 detailed sessions on the changes and we are now launching it this week and for the next 2 weeks up to the 20th Sept as a 'soft launch'.

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This means that there will be a grace period for staff making errors, or for us to detect glitches in our systems and rectify these. We ask for parental support on this and patience, as with any new system there could be teething problems. As part of this period, if a student critiques staff or is rude to them if they do make an error, the student will be sanctioned with a detention. Students are aware of this and have been told this in their assemblies this week.

In case you have not had a chance to read the changes that were sent out twice in July, I have included the summary again below and there is also a link to a video presentation by Mrs Nowell, Deputy Headteacher: Pastoral, to explain these changes further and the rationale.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-XAj533ogRfmU2-VAq7Yqg8R0YipADb/view?usp=sharing>

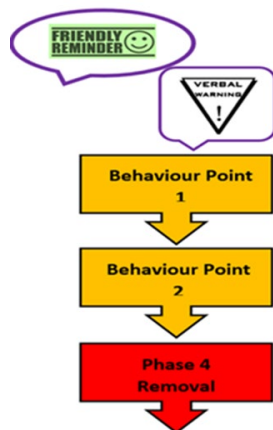
Main changes to the rewards system:

- We are moving away from the planner as a vehicle for rewards, so there will be no stamps.
- Next year students will be awarded electronic rewards points on Class Charts.
- These will be awarded by any adult and link to our character builders.
- Students will be awarded up to 6 points per teacher or adult or activity.
- You will see these points in 'real-time' and as they are awarded, by which staff and why via your Class charts App
- We will retain the purple awards slips as an instant and tangible award.
- A new certificate and new short term rewards system based on points accumulation will be introduced for next year.

Main changes to the process:

- There will be no written comments or behaviour comments in the planner. These will be recorded online, and seen by you on Class Charts and the App/website.
- There will be no detentions recorded or dates of detentions in the planner. These will be recorded online, and seen by you on Class Charts and the App/website.
- Students will be able to download an App or login to a website for Class Charts, they too can monitor their own behaviours, detentions. The App must only be used at home (before or after school).
- We have added additional steps to the low level escalation process (verbal warning, comments and phase 4 classroom removal).

The additional step is a 'friendly reminder' before the verbal warning: see the below diagram of the new look system:



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- Students now have two chances to modify unwanted behaviours ahead of any consequence.
- We have added this step to support students, allow take up time and utilise some aspects of relational practise.
- Behaviour comments will be recorded on Class Charts but not in the planner.
- Students will be issued a small yellow card when they receive a behaviour point. The card will be placed on the desk as discreetly as possible. This is to remind them they have a point (because they are no longer in their planner). The card has tips and strategies on it to help students to not escalate their behaviours and encourages regulation.
- Parents will receive a notification of any behaviour points on their app in real time.
- If a student reaches the phase 4 classroom transfer stage, parents will receive a detention notification for this and a date via the app/website.
- Parents will be notified of all behaviour detentions via the app/website from September.

Main changes on the student planner:

- The planner will still be used for all other systems in school and students will get a new one in September.
- The planner will still be used for homework organisation, information storage, notes, whiteboard and is vital for staff communication with the medical room etc.
- The planner must be brought everyday as we expect it to be brought every day now, it is still central to other systems.

We thank you in advance for your support and patience.

Information Evening (Positive Behaviour Policy and Class Charts) Monday 16th September

We will be holding an information evening on the new Positive Behaviour systems and Class Charts on Monday 16th September 2024 at 6pm in the Main Hall. However, if you feel the information we have already provided on this is clear there is no need for you to attend.

The evening will start with a short presentation (of the information already shared) followed by an opportunity to talk to members of the Leadership Team. We will also be offering technical support on the evening if you are having problems accessing Class Charts. If you would like to attend for technical support this please email info@horsforthschool.org Please put **Technical Support 16.09.24** in the subject line and let us know your name and the name of your child.

2024-2025 Term Dates

Please see below a link to the 2024-2025 term dates: <https://www.horsforthschool.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/Horsforth-School-Term-Dates-2024-25-2.pdf>

School Dinner Menu

Please click on the link below to view the food on offer for the coming week.

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1FOLgr34HuE8uaGA3039kR6nC9gul_mU8iSspDuCE63Q/edit?usp=sharing

1. Please note menus may be subject to change due to product availability.

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2. *Please note some of the products we serve may contain peanuts, tree nuts, soy, milk, eggs and wheat. While we take steps to minimise the risk of cross-contamination, we cannot guarantee that any of our products are safe to consume for people with peanut, tree nut, soy, milk, egg or wheat allergies.*
3. *Please note we will make every reasonable effort to ensure that the information provided is accurate; however, due to the very nature of food production there can be variations in each meal. As a school we are not able to provide 100% accurate information on the food we serve.*

Come and Work at our School

[Take a look at our Vacancies webpage](#) to view the current roles we are recruiting. We are currently looking for a Trainee SEND Practitioner and a SEND Learning Support Assistant. You can always call the school for a chat about any of the jobs on offer on 0113 2265454. Please share with anyone you think might like to join our team.

Gothia Cup 2024

Well done to those students who travelled to Gothenburg to take part in the Gothia Cup before the summer break!

They played 5 matches (against USA, Sweden, Norway and Austria) unfortunately being knocked out by the U14 girls at round of 16 (which had 80 teams, 15 different nations).

The girls were also lucky to go to the Sweden v England lionesses match and experience Swedish culture.

Well done to Jaide, Amber, Kate, Joley, Sofia, Lily, Zoe, Miah and Rose.

Sixth Form at Horsforth News

Register Your Interest for our Sixth Form Open Evenings

If your child will be in Year 11 from September, don't forget to come to one of our sixth form open evenings. We will let you know when you can book a place, [if you register your details here](#).

I hope the return to school has been smooth for you at home. I know it can be difficult to help teenagers (my son is 15) to shift from sleeping in to early starts so I would like to thank you for your support.

Yours faithfully

Dr P Bell
Headteacher