



Horsforth School

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20th December 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

I would like to take the opportunity to thank you for all your support this year and to wish you a very merry Christmas!

We have had some amazing academic success this year. The Times has ranked us as one of the “[top 10 schools in the north](#)” and the Yorkshire Post in the “[top 3 Sixth Forms in Yorkshire](#)”. We are so proud of our students and staff for their effort, resilience and success.

There have been some amazing sporting successes, I cannot remember a year where we are progressing so well in the regional and national competitions with so many students sharing their individual endeavours. A huge well done again to our kitchen team for winning “School Catering Team of the Year”!

I have been really proud of the opportunities we have offered, I know how much time staff give of their own accord to trips like the Mandarin Intensive learning visit to a University in Hangzhou, the World Challenge trip to Peru through to theatre visits and Apple VR experiences. It can be easy to overlook this but the wider opportunities students can take part in really can make a difference. Please take a minute to look through the end of term newsletter that was sent home this week if you want a flavour of what has gone on this year: www.horsforthschool.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/December-Newsletter.pdf

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

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/17yQRkY2hSzjrPL68lxFSshznwDWF6tIn/view?usp=sharing>

A Musical Christmas for Horsforth

Christmas Singalong

On Friday 13th December, students in Year 11 and 12 supported Horsforth Children’s Services (HCS) in a Christmas singalong for some of the most vulnerable children in our community. The event was wonderful and there was a surprise visit from Santa Claus himself who brought lots of chocolate for our students. Thank you to HCS for arranging this wonderful event and letting us be a part of your great work.

Carols and Lunch

On Sunday 15th, the school choir were invited to sing in the ‘Carols and lunch’ event at Weetwood Hall. We sang in two performances across the afternoon and alongside the choir performances, a multitude of

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our talented students took the mic for some solo and duet performances. Thank you to all our singers who gave up some of their Sunday to sing in this event.



Winter Showcase

Monday the 16th December brought about the long-awaited music department's Winter Showcase, an event that packed out the main hall. Over two hundred and fifty of our schools' family and friends attended the performance and we are truly thankful for your support. Almost one hundred students from Years 7 to year 13 took part in the performance singing, playing and dancing.

We are immensely proud of the Concert Band, Musical Theatre and the school choir for their hard work and awesome performances throughout the night. Some of the highlights included Naiomi and Jenny's incredible performance of 'Hallelujah', Lilia's terrific piano arrangement of 'Away in a manger', and Year 7 Jam club whose enthusiasm was second to none.

Finally, a huge congratulations to the four fantastic hosts for the evening, Anna, Mia, Peter and Gilbert, who lead from the front with confidence and clarity. You did better than we could ever have wished for, thank you.

Both Mr Denson and Miss Smith are exceptionally proud of all performers and look forward to working with you all again in January!



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MP Visit

We were delighted to host a visit from newly elected MP Katie White last week. Here she is meeting with Dr Bell and two of our politics students, Kieva and Isla who got to hear a first-hand account of Katie's role.



Horsforth School Christmas Market

Last Friday we ran the first of its kind 'Horsforth School Christmas Market'! We had many items on sale such as: books, sweets and pop, design your own baubles, hot chocolate, various generous donations and lots of baked goods - including some made by one of our entrepreneurial Year 11s. We also had some Christmas games including a lucky dip, guess the teacher, how many candy canes are in the jar and name the teddy bear. A very jolly time was had by all. Thank you so much to anyone who helped and donated.



A Christmas Carol Performance

Year 10 watched a performance of A Christmas Carol in school on Wednesday. They are currently studying the novella in their English Literature lessons and this gave them a chance to see a live performance of the text. The Quantum Theatre Company who have visited the school for a number of years now said that we were the best audience they have ever had! Students could see Ebenezer Scrooge

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transform in front of them from a miserly man to a caring, giving, supportive citizen and they enjoyed seeing the cast of characters brought to life by the actors.



Wall of Hearts

Mrs Brotherton has started a new 'Art and Wellbeing intervention with students in Y8. It's called 'Wall of Hearts'- The aim of which is to build a culture of gratitude and positivity in the year group.

During the one off session students consider things in their lives that they're grateful for and share their ideas with the rest of the group. While the discussion takes place, they work with a range of mixed media to create a heart design that will be displayed as a group piece outside the Hub. The idea is to build a culture of gratitude and positivity.

Mrs Brotherton is hoping to extend this to other year groups.



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Child Friendly Leeds Winter Guide

Leeds city council have produced a menu of activities you may wish to consider (specifically low cost or free) if you would like a day out or something to do over the Christmas period:

<https://wearechildfriendlyleeds.com/2024/11/22/the-child-friendly-leeds-winter-guide/>

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/1kr3tdnKUhOBtjmdyT_hrguBMzeoFcgxcAokkRYSIGvc/edit?usp=sharing

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

Cross Country Success

Last Saturday Finn in Year 7 took part in the school cross country race at Otley. He managed to finish 6th overall and has qualified for the West Yorkshire schools championship in February! Well done Finn.



Fixtures

Prince Henry's Grammar School Cross Country Event

Amazing results from the Prince Henry's Grammar School Cross Country Event. There was a little more pressure for this event as it was the qualification to the Yorkshire trials. We had over 20 pupils representing our school on a lovely Saturday morning in Otley. Massive well done to all the participants who run through all sorts of terrains.

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Special mentions to Romy, Grace and Daisy who all finished in the top 20 of their events for the Year 7 Girls. Finn came 6th for the Year 7 Boys and qualified for the Yorkshire trials. For the Year 8 and 9 races, well done to Danielle who finished 11th and Mia who finished 14th in their respective races. Well done to Timothy and Alfie who finished 5th and 11th and qualified also for the trials.

Year 7 Football

On Tuesday this week our Year 7 team sadly lost in the National Cup to a very good Wright and Robinson College, Manchester. For context, this was a school who have won the National Cup on a number of occasions, have players at the academies of Liverpool, Manchester City and Sheffield United and their best players on the day were not even part of any academies!

The boys were phenomenal throughout and not once did they point the finger at one another and were a credit to the school. They tried to play football throughout and although this gifted Robinson a few goals, the willingness to do so was really encouraging to see. The boys were naturally disappointed but to get the last 32 out of 455 schools is an outstanding achievement and something they and we are really proud of. "Keep your heads up lads" was constantly being echoed throughout the game and made the coaches very proud.

Special mentions go to Dexter who slotted in fantastically, Sam for playing out of position at RCB, Isaac for constantly trying to make the midfield tick and Oskar who stepped in at the last minute when we had injuries at the back.

After Christmas we have the Leeds City Cup Quarter Final to look forward to and our Central Venue 3 at Ilkley.

Sixth Form at Horsforth News

Thoughtful Thursday PSHCE

Here are some fantastic photos of our Sixth Form 'Thoughtful Thursday' PSHCE lesson yesterday. All Sixth Form students participated in a range of activities including Christmas Crafts, Christmas Pirate game, football, dodgeball, badminton, mindfulness colouring and even cooking with our Executive Chef, Dave.

We have had some amazing feedback from students and staff. A massive thank you to all staff involved and the activities they have planned and led especially Dave who created and organised student cooking during a very busy period of the day before lunch.



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Applied Science Trip

The applied science trip was a great success, students visited the chemistry labs at the University of Bradford where they made Aspirin in the morning. In the afternoon they used advanced analysis techniques such as mass spectrometry and nuclear magnetic resonance to determine the purity of their Aspirin.



We are really looking forward to seeing everyone back refreshed and ready to go in January so I would just like to wish you a great holiday and a happy new year!

Thank you as always for your support,

Yours faithfully

Dr P Bell
Headteacher

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