



## Horsforth School

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Headteacher: Dr P C Bell

Our Ref: PCB/TRH/JFI

10<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

It's been a disrupted start to the New Year so thank you for your patience and support. With poor weather closures we always try and make the decision as early as possible as we understand how this can make things difficult for you so thank you to those parents who have contacted us to recognise that.

I would like to thank the students for how well they have been coping without the outside areas and our magnificent site team (as well as some teachers with shovels!) who have worked round the clock to get the site safe.

The weather is looking better for the foreseeable future (after the weekend) so fingers crossed there is no more disruption. We will be back to normal next week unless we contact you with new information.

Please remind your sons and daughters that they must be in the gates by 8:20 or they will be late. We have been more relaxed this week to ensure students don't rush and fall but as normal service resumes so does our lates policy.

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

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1b8tloCf52DBuRQn-akKiFQT1bo\\_F6vOu/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1b8tloCf52DBuRQn-akKiFQT1bo_F6vOu/view?usp=sharing)

### **Continued concerns around Vaping**

We have used PSHCE lessons and safeguarding week to highlight the dangers associated with vaping and in particular illegal vapes. We would like to raise concerns with parents about the increase of illegal vapes in the area and have provided details from West Yorkshire Police in the links below. Please do take some time to read about this and make your children aware if you suspect they are at risk now or in the future.

<https://www.horsforthschool.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Letter-to-Parent-or-Guardian-Vapes.pdf>

<https://www.horsforthschool.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Illegal-Vape-Poster.pdf>

### **Parent Trustee Elections**

We've received four nominations from parents for the Parent Trustee vacancy, which means we now need to hold a ballot. Our Articles of Association (our legally binding guidelines) only allow for postal voting, so

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ballot papers will be sent home with students next week, along with clear instructions of the process and who has voting rights.

We understand that some students have parents who do not live in the same home. To ensure everyone has the opportunity to vote, those students will be able to collect more than one ballot pack if needed.

Once you've completed your ballot, please make sure it's placed in the envelopes provided. You can return it via the post, directly to Reception or send it in with your child, who can drop it off at Reception themselves. A sealed ballot box will be available at Reception for collecting the votes.

The deadline for returning ballots is 12:00 noon on Wednesday 29th January. After that, members of the Student Parliament will count the votes and the results will be communicated to parents and carers.

Thank you in advance for taking part in this important process—we really appreciate your support!

### **Health, Wellbeing and Safety Week**

Our annual Health, Wellbeing and Safety Week takes place w/c 20th January. This is a focussed week where we further extend our comprehensive personal development offer for our students, promoting skills for now and into adult life, and to support their wellbeing.

During this week students in Years 7-11 will have a range of opportunities to take part in an array of activities that improve their health, wellbeing, and understanding of staying safe. With their peers this week, students will take part in an active tutor time session around the importance of keeping good physical and mental health with practical tips for both. Furthermore, Students have the chance to sign up for a range of activities after school and at lunch which promote health and wellbeing. Different staff will be offering a range of activities that students can sign up to: knitting, yoga, bun making/decorating, crafts, birdwatching and even karaoke to name but a few! We hope to see as many of our students as possible taking advantage of these to support improving their wellbeing and further building on positive relationships between staff and students.

Moreover, to complement our prioritisation of the five ways to wellbeing from NHS guidance, we also have guest speakers from Leeds Rhinos for Year 9 students about the importance of mental fitness. Year 10 and 11 students will also benefit from the opportunity of special assemblies from Mr Beezy, a motivational speaker who has experience of working with students across the country. An energetic, humorous and empowering presenter, the students will receive what we believe will be an engaging approach on what it takes to be successful and further inspire our students to strive for being the best version of themselves!

As a main focus for our safeguarding talks for all year groups, we are focussing on improving our students' understanding and awareness of harmful sexual behaviours be it crude, derogatory jokes or language to more serious incidents of harassment, sexting or assault.

Online safety remains a key focus for the week and 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.

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We are promoting a digital detox for the week with our students. Overuse of technology can have a profound effect on mental health, wellbeing and sleep.

Please find out how a 48 hour detox can be completed at home using the following the link:

<https://www.gohenry.com/uk/blog/family/10-digital-detox-tips-for-teens-and-the-rest-of-the-family>

### **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](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1FOLgr34HuE8uaGA3039kR6nC9gul_mU8iSspDuCE63Q/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.*

### **Sixth Form at Horsforth News**

Final Chance! Come and See our Sixth Form

Is your son or daughter in Year 11 and still considering their options after GCSEs? Our final open evening is on 23rd January >> [Book you free tickets here](#) <<

Don't Forget to Complete those Applications!

At the end of January, we will start our group interviews (by invitation) for those students wanting to join our sixth form from this September. [Make sure your son or daughter has completed and submitted their application here.](#)

Good Luck

This week and next week some of our Year 13 students are sitting official exams. Never easy during the first week back and with the weather conditions! But you have taken it in your stride, so best of luck from us!

Finally, a warm (even if it was below 0) welcome back to everyone and well done for a purposeful first week of term!

Thank you as always for your support,

Yours faithfully

Dr P Bell  
Headteacher

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