



Horsforth School

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Our Ref: PCB/TRH/JFI

24th January 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

It's been a great week of really varied and interesting activities linked to mental health, wellbeing and health and safety. I would like to thank the staff for their efforts in organising and running the week as well as the students for their engagement and positive attitudes.

Year 11 Parental Revision Evening

It was fantastic to see so many Year 11 parents attending the revision evening on Monday where revision strategies, techniques and advice was given by curriculum leaders and members of the Year 11 and leadership team. All of the resources can be found using the link below:

<https://www.horsforthschool.org/school/exam-information-year-11/>

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

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Yu9dRxION_YzFxZOGq83smxZ9wXrUD-g/view?usp=sharing

Mental Health, Wellbeing and Safety Week

This week, the focus has been on our mental health, wellbeing and safety. We want to give our students the tools to cope with anything that life throws at them. They've been able to get involved in all sorts of activities that we hope will give them an insight into how they can improve their wellbeing. There was dancing, karaoke, knitting, journaling, music, birdwatching, yoga, crafts and sports sessions! Students have also heard from external speakers Mr Beezy, who shared his motivational talk to inspire students to achieve their full potential, and Dane Weatherill from Leeds Rhinos, who ran mental health workshops for our Year 9 students. Important information on keeping ourselves safe was also covered in special assemblies for all year groups. Thank you to the staff for facilitating the various activities and to all students for getting involved! We will include a roundup on social media next week so please look out for that.



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Silver Medal Success at Annual Panathlon

Team Leader Jacob (8T) along with Hettie (8O), Norah (8L), Mary (8E) and Isaac (8E) have competed in the annual Panathlon sports competition hosted by Prince Henry's Grammar School. The students showed excellent teamwork skills throughout the competition, which culminated in them finishing in silver medal position! This is an incredible achievement and one they should be very proud of. Speed bounce, target throwing, indoor curling and hockey dribbling are but a few of the challenges they had to master. It was an absolute pleasure to see such enjoyment and team work from our Horsforth Students. Well done superstars!



Holocaust Memorial Webinar

Monday 27th January marks the International Holocaust Remembrance day and this Wednesday, sixty year 9 pupils were invited to the Lessons From Auschwitz Webinar. Pupils got to hear from Malia Tribich, a Holocaust survivor and her experiences during the genocide. She spoke about the initial fear when the Nazis invaded Poland and the feeling of the unknown when she and her family were put into Piotrków ghetto. As the genocide began to escalate through the deportations to Concentration and extermination camps, Malia became incredibly ill when she was deported to Ravensbrück Concentration camp.

Pupils also got to see the reality of many surviving Jews, as Malia felt the joy of being reunited with her brother Ben in 1947, but the realisation that they were the 2 surviving members of their family. The pupils

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asked insightful questions in the Q&A section of the webinar and were a credit to themselves and the school.



Parent Trustee Elections – Voting Deadline

Ballot papers for the Parent Trustee Elections were sent home with all students last week. We just want to remind you that the deadline to return your ballots is 12:00 noon on Wednesday 29th January.

Members of the Student Parliament will count the votes and the results will be communicated to parents and carers in this letter next week.

Once again, thank you for taking part in this important process—we really appreciate your support!

Happy Chinese New Year (29th January)

Chinese New Year is fast approaching and we're excited to celebrate the Year of the Snake, a symbol of wisdom, transformation, and intuition! We wish all our students, staff, and community a year filled with success, positivity, and growth.

Our Mandarin students have been doing a variety of activities in class to celebrate the year of the snake and they are also going to put up some decorations around school. The Catering Team are also organising a Chinese New Year themed menu next week to celebrate. Look out for some photos on social media or in the letter next week.

Toilet Use During Lesson Time

At Horsforth School, we are committed to balancing student welfare with safeguarding. To ensure all students feel safe using our facilities, while addressing challenges like misuse and safeguarding concerns, as we advised you last week we have made some changes to toilet access during lesson time:

- The main toilet block doors have been reinstated, and some toilet blocks will close during lesson times.
- Toilets will remain fully open at **breaks, lunch, form time, and before/after school** (6 daily opportunities).
- During lessons, toilets at the **front of the school** will remain open all day for those with a toilet pass, medical needs, or extenuating circumstances.

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Key Points to Note:

- Students with medical needs requiring toilet access during lessons can apply for a **toilet pass** by emailing pastoralhub@horsforthschool.org with supporting medical evidence.
- Gender-neutral, disabled, and individual toilets around the school will remain open all day.
- This change will be trialled, and we'll provide updates in due course.

Japan Exchange 2025

The Horsforth School science department has a close relationship with Ritsumeikan High School, an independent school situated just outside of Kyoto, Japan. Each year we send some of our Year 12 students to the Japan Super Science Fair - hosted by Ritsumeikan High School - where they get to meet schools and students from all across the world and share an interest in science and discovery; it's easily one of the biggest highlights of the school calendar each year!

As part of this arrangement, every two years we offer an exchange program where families from Horsforth School host Japanese students, and we provide opportunities for both sets of students to experience British culture. Last time involved trips out to local landmarks, attempts at cooking and eating British cuisine, and generally giving them the classic Yorkshire warm welcome! This year we will be receiving ten students - four male and six female - between the dates of **Saturday 8th March** and **Friday 14th March** (one week).

Ideally, we would like to have volunteering families from **Years 11 and 12** to match the age of the visiting students. If you would like to be involved in this fantastic opportunity, please email Mr Weedy (Curriculum Leader of Science) at weedy01@horsforthschool.org indicating your interest by **Monday 27th January** so that we can begin the pairing process.

This is a unique chance for students to create links with others from the opposite side of the world, and it looks great on sixth form and UCAS applications; we very much look forward to hearing from anyone who would like to take up this excellent offer.

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.*

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Sports Fixtures

Leeds District Netball Club

Congratulations to Iris and Alice-May in Year 7, Eve and Lily in Year 8 and Imogen and Alice in Year 10 who successfully got into Leeds District Netball Club after being selected for trials by the PE department. They are role models for our pupils at Horsforth School and should be proud of their fantastic efforts.



Year 11 Netball

Our Year 11 Netball Team were fantastic at their fixture on Tuesday night and still remain unbeaten throughout the entire season. The girls played Guiseley School at home and scored a massive 20 goals. They only conceded one. The girls are a pleasure to watch and really gel as a team, supporting one another.

The Teacher's Player of the Game was Emily for her outstanding shooting and fast runs, and the Player's Player of the Game was Lois for her fantastic interceptions and rebounds. Hopefully they will continue to play netball heading into sixth form and beyond!

Football Fixtures

Year 7 had two central venue fixtures this week. On Monday they played against Ralph Thoresby School and Ilkley Grammar School. In the first game Horsforth struggled to break down a resilient RTS side. A bit of magic from Charlie gave us the lead and a wicked deflection gave us a two goal cushion. Dexter and Isaac were our stand out players in a game which lacked intensity. The second game was more like it and Horsforth dominated. A breakaway goal however gave IGS the lead, but we struck back with another own goal. In the final few minutes however, we switched off and allowed IGS to snatch the victory. Unfortunately, we were not quite at the races and our pressing game was not in unison which ultimately cost us.

Our second central venue fixture saw a rejuvenated squad and the boys listened brilliantly to win two games out of two. In our first game we took on a very competent Benton Park side. The boys stepped up to the challenge and played some brilliant football. Charlie lead from the front and Isaac and Will put in an

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almighty shift in the middle of the park. Isaac slotted in our first goal, only for us to be peg backed by BP. However, Charlie scored the decisive goal where he was set off beautifully by Joseph to make it 2-1. The dying moments saw a key save from Toby and we inflicted our opponents first defeat of the year. Our 2nd game saw our ruthless best as we came out 6-0 winners over Lawnswood. Goals came from Charlie (X2) Isaac, Thomas, Aboudy and Sam gave us a deserved win. Our 2nd central venue showed how good the squad can be and how they need to avoid performances like Monday!

Year 8 Football

Our Year 8 Football Team advanced into the Quarterfinals of the Leeds Schools FA Cup. They beat Cardinal Heenan 3-0. This was the best performance from the team this year, playing in a 3-5-2 really complimented the player's attributes. Playing some lovely football and defending as a unit against a very physical team. Mr Maxwell was very happy.

Special mentions to Archie, Hugo, Henry, James and Murtarda who all played exceptional throughout.

Sixth Form at Horsforth News

Thank you!

We wanted to say a big thank you to our Year 11 student families who came to our open evening last night. We hope you found it useful talking to teachers, students and enjoyed the sample food on offer. For those students wanting to join our sixth form from September, [make sure your son or daughter has completed and submitted their application here.](#)

Mental Health, Wellbeing And Safety Week

This week our students got involved in activities to help de-stress and prioritise their health. From gym and knit and natter sessions to board game bonanzas and meeting the now famous Pablo the dog – we hope some downtime was nice!



Thank you as always for your support,

Yours faithfully

Dr P Bell
Headteacher

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