

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

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Dear Parent/Carer,

It's been great to see our students back refreshed and raring to go! We are really impressed with Year 11's focus so please pass that on, it's a stressful time for them but they are doing brilliantly. Whole school uniform is looking very good so please accept my thanks for your support with this and the atmosphere in school is really purposeful and calm.

With the use of social media unavoidable it's probably the most complex time ever to be a young person. The amount of information, good and bad, is immense and navigating life as a teenager (and being a parent of a teenager) is more challenging than ever. As a result, we have some key updates on how to support young people if they are accessing information from extremist websites or sources. I understand it will not be of use to the vast majority of parents but just a reminder it's always worth checking phone usage and history if you have any concerns (and even routinely).

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

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Pt3xDnez3REV-7LFdyYFXbo1J9-nNclU/view?usp=sharing>

Safeguarding Updates: Extremism and the Prevent Duty

We have always educated our young people for this safeguarding concern and use PSHCE (Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education), Religious Studies and our personal development offer as our main drivers for delivering this. In order to continue to fulfil the Prevent duty effectively we need to raise parental awareness of this issue and highlight our current work. This is not to cause any alarm. We assure you this is simply information sharing, of which we are required to do for our parents.

What is Extremism and the Prevent duty?

The Prevent duty is the duty to have “due regard to the need to prevent young people from being drawn into extremist views and ideologies which could lead into terrorism.” It is a national government strategy for all UK schools designed to educate and prevent young people being drawn into risky, dangerous, or illegal situations in relation to extremist groups which includes their potential influence and action in connection to terrorism or extremist views.

The Prevent Duty for schools was first launched in 2015 and new legislation came into force for 2024. All

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schools have a duty to educate and upskill their young people on this matter. We have a duty to prevent potential 'radicalisation' and 'extremism' which is occurring more frequently online.

Definitions:

- Radicalisation: The process by which a person comes to support terrorism and forms of extremism leading to it. Radicalisation doesn't happen overnight; it is a gradual process that happens over time.
- Extremism: Vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values.

What does school need to do?

We have always educated our young people for this safeguarding concern and use PSHCE, RS and our personal development offer as our main drivers for this. To continue to fulfil the Prevent duty in school we wish to raise parental awareness of this issue and highlight our current or intended work.

- We continue to build upon pupils' resilience to radicalisation by promoting fundamental British values in all aspects of our curriculum and our statement on these is found on our website. As a school, we promote the fundamental British values through both our taught curriculum (the learning that takes place through taught sessions in class) and through our wider curriculum (the learning that takes through trips, assemblies, clubs, external speakers).
- Our diversity student led group plays a large role in promoting discussion and encouraging children to challenge and tolerate the views of others.
- We are using the Summer Term to run bespoke sessions for all students on key themes coming through, including a culture day in July!
- There has been recent staff training from the local council and DfE to continue our vigilance and upskilling.

How can parents support their child?

We all want our children to live in a safe and loving environment so that they can grow up to become happy, confident adults. You will already know that your children can be vulnerable to risks both inside and outside the home and will have already taken steps to protect them. Protecting your children from radicalisation and extremism is similar to protecting them from the other harms you may be more familiar with, especially when they are online.

The NSPCC has launched a helpline to support adults who have concerns about children and young people being radicalised or who need advice on how to talk to their children about issues related to terrorism. They have published a short film encouraging parents to use its helpline to talk through any concerns they may have about their child being radicalised. Warning signs include talking as if from a scripted speech; unwillingness or inability to discuss their views; a sudden disrespectful attitude towards others; increased secretiveness, especially around internet use. However, these signs do not necessarily mean a child is being radicalised.

Video link - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VOis5CFU8vs>

Educate against Hate website: <http://educateagainsthate.com/parents>

NSPCC website: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/reporting-abuse/dedicated-helplines/protecting-children-from-radicalisation/>

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Ramadan - Fasting and Physical Education at Horsforth School

As a school we fully recognise that fasting during the month of Ramadan is the fourth Pillar of Islam; an act of worship of great spiritual, moral and social significance for Muslims. We aim to be supportive and empathetic at this spiritual time.

Our stance and procedures have been devised with reference to the following two publications: Towards Greater Understanding – Meeting the needs of Muslim pupils in state schools, Information & Guidance for Schools. The Muslim Council of Britain (www.mcb.org.uk) Safe Practice in Physical Education, Sport & Physical Activity. Association for Physical Education (www.afpe.org.uk)

- During Ramadan, all Muslim pupils will be expected with reasonable adjustments where necessary, to take part in Physical Education, for the following three reasons:
 - a) Muslims are encouraged not to use Ramadan as an opportunity to avoid aspects of normal life, but rather to cope with normal life under a different set of guidelines.
 - b) All children have an entitlement to access a meaningful PE programme that meets the requirements of the National Curriculum while seeking to respect any religious or cultural sensitivities involved wherever possible.
 - c) The Muslim Council of Britain states that “the majority of pupils who are fasting are able to take part in most physical activities during Ramadan without putting themselves at risk or danger”
- PE staff appreciate that during fasting, normal energy resources may become depleted, and the risk of dehydration is increased. As a result, PE staff will ensure that intensity levels in activities may need to be lowered to a point where fasting students may continue to participate safely and will remain responsive to students’ needs during Ramadan.
- PE staff may allow students to sit out of some activities and join in only some.
- PE staff and parents should encourage pupils who are fasting to speak to their PE teacher as soon as possible if they feel that the intensity level in their lesson needs reducing and PE staff will listen and adapt.
- **Parents of fasting pupils must write a note in the student planner** should they want a complete withdrawal from the lesson for the month of Ramadan. This note will be shown every lesson to the PE teacher to be dismissed fully. We want to support and recognise that in certain circumstances such as menstruation for girls and illness, or other personal factors that taking part in a full lesson and changing may not be the best for the child at that time. **Students who do not take part will still be expected to remain in the lesson as observers or helpers wearing normal uniform.**
- If there is no request to withdraw from parents, students will be expected to take part in PE with reasonable adjustments.

Parenting Course

Please see a link below to a flyer and information from Horsforth Children’s Services, who are offering classes and advice for those parents who maybe struggling with their children currently or those who may want to know more about the teenage brain and what to expect as young people grow so parents can be prepared, We do recommend these courses, staff have done these and are very helpful.

<https://www.horsforthschool.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Life-in-the-Eyes-of-a-Young-Person-February-2025.pdf>

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Ski Trip 2025

Over half-term 61 students and 8 staff went to Bormio, Italy. The resort will be one of the host venues for the 2026 Winter Olympics. The students either learned to ski or honed their skills on some top class terrain including the renowned Stelvio run which will be the slope for the Men's downhill in 2026. Both the ski instructors and the hotel staff commented on how fabulous the students were, a sentiment the staff team very much echoed. We all had a great time and are very much missing the slopes and blue skies. Roll on next year!



Ski Trip 2026

Next year's ski trip will be to Wagrain, Austria during the Easter holiday. The resort is part of the huge Ski Amade and is an area we know well having visited previously. With over 600KMs of skiing and lots of excellent evening entertainment, it's sure to be another awesome trip. If your son/daughter is interested and you'd like to find out more details, please ask them to collect an information letter from either the Pastoral Hub or Mr Bennett. Permission slips need to be returned by 14th March.

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.

Sports Fixtures

Year 10 Football League Success

Another successful afternoon of football for the Year 10 Boys Football Team this week. They beat Lawnswood 4-0 in a very convincing performance. Despite seven players being unavailable for the game, players from the squad really stepped up and performed so well.

Goals for Jake, Charlie, Leo and Joe secured the victory. Massive shout out to Lucas, Luc and Robbie who all came in to support the team and really contributed to the team's victory. Also, special mention to Sam who made an excellent save (the only one of the game) at 2-0, really was top class.

Lawnswood were unbeaten before the fixture and had some really talented players, but our boys remained focused and kept to the principles of the team.

Year 7 Football

On Tuesday our Year 7 Football Team put in another solid performance in our final central venue of the season. We travelled to St Marys Menston, with the knowledge that two wins would most likely see us progress into the quarter final of the Leeds League Cup.

The first game could have been a cricket score if it was not for the St Marys goalkeeper who was simply outstanding. We looked solid at the back and with the return of Euan, we had another dimension to our attacking play. The breakthrough came through Charlie, with a tidy finish to make it 1-0. We never looked like conceding in truth, and we came out 1-0 winners.

The second game we came up against a technically gifted Guiseley side, but our press and game management meant the game was never really in doubt. A fine break on the right hand side from Alfie gave Charlie an easy tap in. The second goal did not take long to come and it was Charlie once again, who finished intelligently to sink Guiseley.

Special mentions go to the following..

- Euan for being relentless in his pressing and he was so unlucky not to score.
- Aboudi for his intelligence in both games. Although he does have more time than he realises...
- Dexter for being calm, composed and creative in everything he did.
- The entire back line who have conceded six goals across 10 games throughout the season.

But the Player of the Match was Charlie, who scored all three of our goals and was as creative as ever throughout.

We are still waiting on the results from other schools, but the boys should progress to the next stage of

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the Leeds League Cup. Next Tuesday we have a quarter final fixture against Abbey Grange at home and any support would be greatly appreciated. They are a talented bunch!

Sixth Form at Horsforth News

Lessons From Auschwitz Project

This Wednesday, six Year 12 pupils got the opportunity to go to Auschwitz-Birkenau with the Lessons From Auschwitz project. Prior to their visit pupils attended a seminar to hear from a Holocaust survivor and to understand how individuals, families and communities were ripped apart throughout Europe.

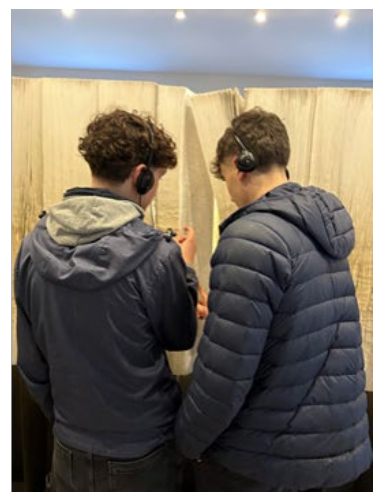
On the day, pupils got to visit Auschwitz-Birkenau with a local guide and were exposed to the horrors of the Holocaust. Firstly, pupils visited camp 1, passing under the sign 'work will set you free'. They entered rooms with the belongings of those who were tragically murdered. From glasses, to suitcases, to the outfit of a child who could be no older than one, pupils were taken back by the systematic nature of the Nazi policies towards Jews, Roma, Gypsy and other minority groups.

A poignant moment was when pupils went into a room with all those who were murdered at Auschwitz. The Book of Names actualises the inconceivable number of Holocaust victims and displays their names together with their dates of birth, hometowns and places of death – for those who were known. The information is printed on pages measuring two meters high and one meter wide. The massive dimensions of the Book of Names testify to the enormity of the collective and unimaginable loss for humanity as a whole and for the Jewish people in particular.

After, pupils visited camp 2 and had the opportunity to light a candle of remembrance. The sheer scale of camp 2 was something all the pupils commented on and it was difficult to comprehend how such atrocities were allowed to be carried out.

Pupils have a follow up webinar in the coming weeks, where they will reflect on their experiences and the importance of how we remember the tragedy that was the Holocaust. The pupils were outstanding and represented the school phenomenally throughout the day.

Thank you also to Mr Rutter who accompanied the pupils throughout the day.



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Another Great Theatre Trip

On Wednesday evening our Year 12 drama students went to the Leeds Playhouse to see *The House Party*. A performance about: A wild party. A friendship. And one night that changes everything. Thank you for this great enrichment opportunity Mrs Kendal.



Finally...

Well done to all our Year 13 students who have sat their mock exams this week. We know it can be intense, but we are proud of how you have handled it. Have a relaxing weekend!

Thank you, as always, for your support.

Yours faithfully

Dr P Bell
Headteacher

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