

Horsforth School

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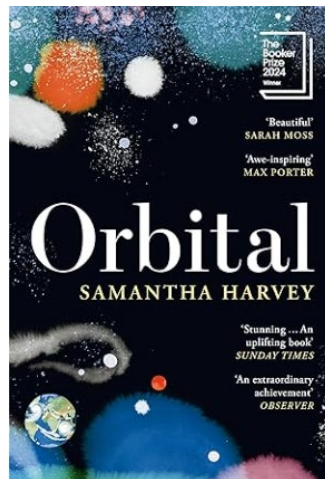
Headteacher: Dr P C Bell

Our Ref: PCB/TRH/JFI

7th March 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

It's been a real pleasure to see students and staff getting so involved in World Book Day! We had our dressing up today and there is going to be a social media vote for the best student and staff costume if you want to get involved. I came as an astronaut from *Orbital*, an amazing (and quite short) book that really gets you to reflect on ourselves and our planet. Very worthy of the Booker Prize in 2024 and I highly recommend it.



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

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1BMXrQVWwyiXu0oewzPk95qLeR9tvEf8Vn/view?usp=sharing>

World Book Day Baking Competition

Feast your eyes on these incredible creations from the World Book Day cake baking competition! A huge shout out to Miss Martin for organizing this event and a big round of applause to our talented students for their amazing effort and creativity!



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World Book Day Photos



Careers Week

March 3rd-7th is National Careers Week and students have received talks in assembly to remind them of their careers pathway at Horsforth School and their access to information that can help with choices and next steps.

All students have access to Unifrog - a careers information platform - where they can build up their profile of knowledge and skills on different careers: <https://www.unifrog.org/>

We also have our designated careers website where students and parents/carers can find out more details on the personal development offer we have in place as well as links to external providers:

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<https://sites.google.com/horsforthschool.org/horsforth-school-careers/home>

Students across Year 8 and Year 9 have also been selecting their options for their depth year and GCSE courses, and Year 10 and Year 11 are finalising work experience and further education places ready for June and September respectively.

Bebras Certificates

In November 2024, students competed in the Bebras challenge, tackling interactive tasks that sharpen logical thinking and problem-solving skills. The students pictured ranked in the top 10% nationally—an outstanding achievement! Last year, over 3 million students from 80+ countries joined this global event. Now, all participants can take on the next round, "The Coding Challenge." If your child loves programming and wants to push their skills further, see Miss Turner to get involved!



Piano Masterclass

This week, some of our music students were treated to a Piano Masterclass with internationally renowned concert pianist, Mr Richard Meyrick. The session was a fantastic opportunity for all our pianists to learn some great tips on how to improve their technique and performance, and everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Following on from her amazing work in the Masterclass, Year 11 student Fay has been awarded a scholarship, including free ongoing lessons with famous Russian pianist Veronika Ilinskaya and an all-expenses paid trip to the famous Blüthner Piano Centre at Baker Street in London to work further with Richard Meyrick. Well done, Fay! We are super proud!



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Writing Success

We were honoured to present a prestigious award in recognition of Year 9 student Naomi's incredible achievement – she placed in the top 10 of a national writing competition celebrating the 70th anniversary of Lord of the Flies! A huge congratulations to Naomi for this outstanding accomplishment!



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>

Ski Trip 2026

Last reminder that at Easter 2026 we'll be going to Wagrain, Austria for our annual Ski trip. Permission slips need to be handed in to either The Pastoral Hub or Mr Bennett by Friday 14th March.

Krakow History Tour

Exciting opportunity! We have one space that has become available on the Krakow History Tour from the 1-4th June. The total cost involved is £875 which includes flights, half board accommodation, evening activities and access to a jam packed itinerary which includes a day trip to Auschwitz, visits to the Salt mines and the Schindler factory as well as evening entertainment. If you are interested in filling the final space please contact info@horsforthschool.org with an FAO for Mr Jacques & Mr Davis. The space will go on a first come first served basis due to the time implications. Thank you in advance!

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/1YU51y5GO-H6-odpxhPOG8zIUwpletxJRyfSbz2tSY0A/edit?usp=sharing>

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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.*

Sports Fixtures

Year 7 and Year 9 Rugby

Two fantastic wins for Year 7 and Year 9 rugby this week!

Year 7s won 6 tries to 4 against a decent Year 7 Guiseley team. Massive thanks to Aran for the support, the Year 7s were buzzing with the win.

Year 9s won 48 - 0, totally outplayed, outmuscled and out-powered Guiseley - a fantastic team and individual tries. Well done all.

Year 7 Basketball

The Year 7s had their very first basketball match for the school on Wednesday and it was worth the wait. Horsforth played Lawnswood in their first game winning 12-6 and then beat Guiseley 25-0 in their second game with a fantastic team performance. Fabio was outstanding, Isaac and Ishuah were excellent at centre, winning countless rebounds and Gabe and Joe played extremely well also.

Year 7 Football

The Year 7 side have made their way into the Semi Final of Leeds Cup on Tuesday against Abbey Grange.

The first half saw us go 1-0 up, with Joseph holding his position at the back post to slot the ball into the back of the net. Abbey Grange scored a lovely headed goal to bring it back to 1-1, but Ewan stepped up with a wicked strike to take us in at 2-1. Despite the lead, the talk from the team was about the ball, but in all honesty, we were 2nd to every ball and just lacked a presence on the pitch.

The second half was much more like it and we had that extra bite in every battle and we looked in control. Abbey Grange kept coming and coming, but our back line stood firm. An indifferent performance and nowhere near our best, but some might say that is the sign of a good team? Next, we will either face Garforth or Morley in the Semi Final.

Special mentions go to Will for reading the game throughout and stopping every Abbey Grange attack, to Ewan for being a constant threat and with a lovely finish and Joseph for listening fantastically and was rewarded with a goal.

The Player of the Match was Toby, for being as calm as ever at the back, but also bringing out his inner Ronaldinho in attack and almost scoring! Superb!

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Year 9 Football

Year 9 won their latest league match against Guiseley on Thursday 5-1. With several players missing the boys didn't let it show and played some brilliant football. Goals from Jacob, George, George, Ruariadh and Blake. Ruariadh and Blake's goals were particularly good. Special mention to Alfie who was superb and full of running and Blake who made an excellent debut, but the Player of the Match went to Ruariadh.

Looking in a good position in the cups again this year:

Year 7 in semis v Morley, Year 8 in quarters v Garforth, Year 10 in quarters and Year 11 in quarters v Temple Moor.

Sixth Form at Horsforth News

Life Skills for Beyond our Sixth Form

PSHCE focussed on more practical information this week. Our Year 12 students heard from ActionFraud, so they can protect themselves from fraud in the future and our Year 13s listened to Andy from NatWest Group about how to manage finances and budget effectively. Great skills to possess no matter our students' final destinations.



Careers Beyond our Sixth Form

This week we've seen numerous careers opportunities available, focussed around life after sixth form. Our Year 12 students were offered sessions with our Year 13 medics, Oxbridge and primary education applicants to pick their brains. Our aspiring medical students went to a national medical conference to see why they might want to become a surgeon. And finally, our engineering students heard from the Director of Mobile Access Engineering at O2. A former student who returned to share his experience of the history and future of mobile telecoms.



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World Book Day



Thank you, as always, for your support.

Yours faithfully

Dr P Bell
Headteacher

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