



## Horsforth School

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Headteacher: Dr P C Bell

Our ref: PCB/ZMC/LDB

Date: 08/09/2025

Dear Parent/Carer

At the start of this new, and very important academic year, we wanted to write to you with some key information and dates. We very much hope that by planning ahead and working together we can support all our students to achieve the grades that they deserve and then on to their destination of choice whether that be Sixth Form at Horsforth or other Post 16 destinations like colleges and apprenticeships.

There is no getting away from the fact that Year 11 is a busy, fast-paced year. As well as working towards the end goal of those GCSE's, students have a lot to think about in terms of applications to possible future destinations. With that in mind we strongly recommend that you start having those conversations with your child in the coming weeks. What sort of areas are they considering for Post 16? Which Open days do they want to attend? What are the key dates for applications? To support with this our in-house careers advisor, Mrs O'Donnell, will see all students to guide them down the appropriate Post 16 route. If you would like some advice, or to even attend your child's appointment with them, that is also possible.

In terms of other areas of support please see below for advice on who to contact when. Both Mrs Patel and Mr Bennett can be contacted through [pastoralhub@horsforthschool.org](mailto:pastoralhub@horsforthschool.org). For all others, please use [info@horsforthschool.org](mailto:info@horsforthschool.org).

**General enquiries – Form Tutor**

**Subject specific advice – Class teacher or Curriculum Leader**

**Pastoral, Behaviour and Attendance advice – Pastoral & Behaviour Officer (PBO - Mrs Patel)**

**Academic concerns around more than one subject or ATL – Year Coordinator (Mr Bennett)**

**Exams – Mrs Forster**

**Post 16 & Careers – Mrs O'Donnell**

**Ipay – Finance Office**

The first "peak point" of the year is Mock Week 1 which will be week commencing 20<sup>th</sup> October. We appreciate that this is earlier than when a number of other Schools have their first round of mocks, but this allows us more time to be able to address gaps in learning and ensure students are best prepared for Mock Week 2 and then the real GCSE exams. Based on the students' results the last few years, we really think this system works. In order to prepare for the first set of mocks we advise that students start revising soon. It does not need to be a huge commitment of time at this

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stage, but little and often, gradually building up towards the exams. In terms of other key dates during the year, please see below.

<b>MFL Mock Speaking Exams 1</b>	<b>WC 13<sup>th</sup> October</b>
<b>Mock exams week 1</b>	<b>WC 20<sup>th</sup> October</b>
<b>'Next Steps' Week</b>	<b>WC 10<sup>th</sup> November</b>
<b>Sixth Form Open Evening</b>	<b>November 13<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Mock GCSE results day</b>	<b>November 21<sup>st</sup></b>
<b>Parents' evening</b>	<b>November 27<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>MFL Mock Speaking Exams 2</b>	<b>WC 2<sup>nd</sup> February</b>
<b>Mock exams week 2</b>	<b>WC 9<sup>th</sup> February</b>
<b>Summer revision timetable begins</b>	<b>WC May 4<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>External GCSE exams start</b>	<b>WC May 4<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Final GCSE Exam</b>	<b>17<sup>th</sup> June</b>
<b>Prom</b>	<b>June 19<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>GCSE Results Day</b>	<b>August 20<sup>th</sup></b>

There is no getting away from the fact that Year 11 is a fast paced, intense and often stressful year. With that in mind we wanted to balance this by taking some time to mention how important it is that students look after their physical and mental health along the way. Aspects such as sleep, diet and exercise are vital to ensure that students are able to do their best academically when it really matters. Whilst a high attendance percentage, an excellent ATL score and a robust revision plan are key ingredients, so is taking time away from their studies, keeping up with hobbies and clubs, socialising with friends and just resting. The students who enjoy the most success are the ones who find this balance early on in the year and make it their routine. Just as you might need to talk with your child about picking up the intensity at times, you might also need to support them with taking their foot off the gas too. If you have concerns either way, we're here to support.

We know that Year 11 can be a stressful time and we want to support you as well as your child this year. Sitting down at this stage and discussing the year ahead, their/your hopes/fears and how to achieve/overcome those aspects usually leads to a few less arguments along the way. What are your expectations around how revision time and social time is split? What is your child willing to commit to this year in those aspects? Have a clear, agreed plan helps for a lower-stress environment for all. We know it's likely not just your child who will feel the stress this year, sometimes parents feel it more! If there is anything we can do to support, please do get in contact as we wish for nothing more than proud and happy students when they open their envelopes in August 2026.

Thanks,  
The Year 11 Team

**Mrs Patel**  
**Pastoral & Behaviour Officer**

**Mr Bennett**  
**Year Coordinator**

**Mrs Comiskey**  
**Leadership Link**

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