

Horsforth School

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Dear Parent/Carer,

As another busy week comes to a close, it is a pleasure to share some of the many activities and events our students have taken part in. It is always wonderful to see so many of them getting involved and making the most of the opportunities available.

World Book Day Slay!

World Book Day at Horsforth School was an entire week from the 2nd to 5th March and what an incredible celebration of books and literature! On Monday, forms competed in a World Book Day Quiz. The winning forms were 7G, 8C, 9O, 10E, 11B – congratulations!

On Tuesday, students had fun at breaktime making bookmarks.



On Wednesday we had a record for the most book-themed cakes ever in the Great Bookish Bake Off. We were absolutely astounded at the quality, talent and number of students that took part in this challenge.

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Runners up; Charlotte's Frog Cake, Luna's Wonka Cake, Emily's Hungry Caterpillar Cake, James's Charlie and the Chocolate Factory Cake, Autumn's Mr Men cake, Ava's Alice in Wonderland cake and Victoria's Percy Jackson cake.

Second place: Matilda and Penny's Magic Faraway Tree Cake, and Millie's Wuthering Heights Cake.

First place: Alice and Megan's Fairytale Cake!



On Thursday, forms in school had fun writing a five-word short story, made famous by Earnest Hemmingway. The winning form was 7C with the story 'World Ended, WHOOP, no homework!'- well done.

On Friday, some of the teachers in school were replaced by some well-known literary characters. Nearly 50 members of staff dressed up and students had fun searching for each character around school in a treasure hunt. The winning staff costume, voted by students, was Mr Maxwell as Willy Wonka. Only ten

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students managed to find all of the literary characters in our treasure hunt competition, but the winner of the treasure hunt was Madeline in Year 7.



Finally, to close world book day, this is a poem from one of our School Poet Laureate's Mia;

Authors through the Ages

*The stories of the world
Through time and space
Have been set in stone
By the great authors of generations*

*Shakespeare and his romantic tragedy
Societal classics written by the Brontë three
Dickens' realism of the Victorian streets*

*Gothic Mary Shelley with her Frankenstein
Hobbits and Orks from the mind of Tolkien
Agatha Christie with her murder mystery*

*J.K. Rowling's wizarding world
Julia Donaldson's rhyming fables
Suzzane Collins' dystopian society*

*The stories of the world
Inspire future generations
To celebrate literature
Because a world without books is an empty world.*

Poetry Slam-Down!

On Tuesday 24th February, Horsforth School was lucky enough to host Maria Ferguson for a poetry slam workshop, 100 year 7 and 8s took part and created poems from scratch in less than a day. Huge congratulations to every student that took part in this workshop, your creativity and confidence was truly amazing!

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In the afternoon, groups of students competed head-to-head in a poetry slam down, the poems and performances were sensational. However, there were two stand-out groups who will be going to the Poetry Slam Final in April to compete against other schools in Leeds. Congratulations to;

The Pink Ladies: Victoria, Hillary, Anastasia, Vivian and Eadie

The Blue Ties: Hannah, Grace, Emily, Alfa and Lacey

Information on the poetry slam final will be in a letter to the winning students next week. I am confident that we will have a winning poetry team!

Battle of the Bands

Year 12 student and President of the Stallion Records team Harry writes “Thank you to everyone who came out to this year's Battle of the Bands competition. We had a record turnout of over 200 audience members, our biggest to date. The standard of music from every band was amazing. Every group that performed had put in hours of hard work and it showed, as it made for a great atmosphere. It's not easy to perform in front of a crowd that size, and each band handled the pressure with ease, making it look like they had been playing events for years.

Thanks to all the wonderful people who helped make this event happen: The Year 12 Stallion Records team, The Year 13s - especially Ollie and Saathana who were the wonderful co-hosts of the show, Facilities and Mr Denson and Miss Smith for their support during rehearsals. And finally, another huge thank you to the bands who played on the night! Congratulations to *The Finger Pistols*, who won the judges vote and will be going to the Warehouse in June to play a real gig and visit a recording studio. Band *2.0.1.1* won the audience vote and will also be getting a session in a recording studio.”



Inspiring the Next Generation of Engineers

Engineering students in Years 10, 11 and 12 welcomed Eddie Burton from Farrans Construction, who delivered an engaging talk about careers in the construction industry. Eddie shared insights into real-world

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engineering and discussed projects his company has worked on, including the new terminal currently being built at Leeds Bradford Airport. Students learned about the wide range of career opportunities in construction, including apprenticeships.



Horsforth Students at the Leeds Rotary Technology Tournament

Twelve of our students proudly represented Horsforth School at the Leeds Rotary Technology Tournament, competing against a record 50 teams from schools across the city. The challenge tasked students with designing and building a working port bridge capable of supporting heavy vehicles while also lifting to allow boats to pass underneath — a demanding brief that tested both engineering skill and teamwork. All three teams impressed judges throughout the day with their excellent communication, collaboration, and problem-solving. Every student played a vital role in their team’s success, demonstrating creativity, resilience, and adaptability as they refined their designs and overcame obstacles. Their hard work showcased outstanding D&T and engineering skills from start to finish. Mr Watkins and Mr Panther-Whittaker were incredibly proud of how well the pupils represented Horsforth School — and we’re already looking forward to taking on next year’s challenge.



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PE Kit Changes

As a result of pupil voice the PE department has looked into ways in which we can make PE lessons more accessible and enjoyable for girls and one significant barrier that has been identified is the fact that girls are not able to wear leggings. It has therefore been decided that after the Easter break girls will be permitted to wear plain black leggings for PE lessons as an alternative to the current PE shorts or tracksuit bottoms.

Please note that leggings must be plain black with a small logo and no patterns. They should be suitable for sports and physical activity to ensure pupils can participate safely and comfortably in PE lessons and therefore I would ask that parents buy sports specific leggings as some fashion leggings become see-through when they are put on.

If you are looking to purchase suitable leggings you can purchase them from the school uniform providers, however, many retailers also offer affordable options. Some websites that parents may find helpful are:

Sports Direct: [Leggings](#)

Decathlon: [Leggings](#)

PC Sports: [Leggings](#)

Whittakers: [Leggings](#)

The new rules do not come into place until after the Easter holidays, can I please ask that pupils conform to the current rules until this time. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Grannon, head of PE at school.

Sports Fixtures

Year 9 Semi Final Defeat vs Roundhay School

Our Year 9 boys sadly saw their excellent run in the Leeds Schools Cup come to an end in the semi-finals after a narrow defeat to Roundhay School on Monday night.

It was a closely contested game throughout, with the boys creating a number of good opportunities. Unfortunately, despite several chances and even a missed penalty, the ball just would not go in for them. The team continued to push forward and showed great character and determination but ultimately were left feeling very unlucky not to progress to the final.

Defensively, the boys were well organised and worked tirelessly to stay in the game. Archie produced an outstanding performance at the back, reading the game superbly and making a number of important interventions to keep Roundhay at bay.

In midfield, Leo was physical, dominant and led the fight for Horsforth. His strength in challenges and ability to compete for every ball helped drive the team forward and kept the intensity high throughout the match. Although the result didn't go their way, the boys can be extremely proud of their effort and commitment. Reaching the semi-finals of the Leeds Schools Cup is a fantastic achievement and the team represented the school brilliantly.

Year 8 Match Report

Our Year 8 finished the league season in style, with a comprehensive 4-1 win over Guiseley. We turned up with no subs and were fantastic throughout. We opened the scoring with a nice, neat finish from Charlie.

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One lapse in concentration allowed Guiseley to pull a goal back. To their credit, the boys literally took the team talk to nth degree, and tried to pass the ball into the net. Astonishingly it was 1-1 at halftime.

The second half saw Horsforth dominate as we continued to show our superiority. Charlie made it 2-1 with a lovely little finish and then made it 3. Toby made it 4-1 with a fantastic finish from the edge of the box and it could have been more!

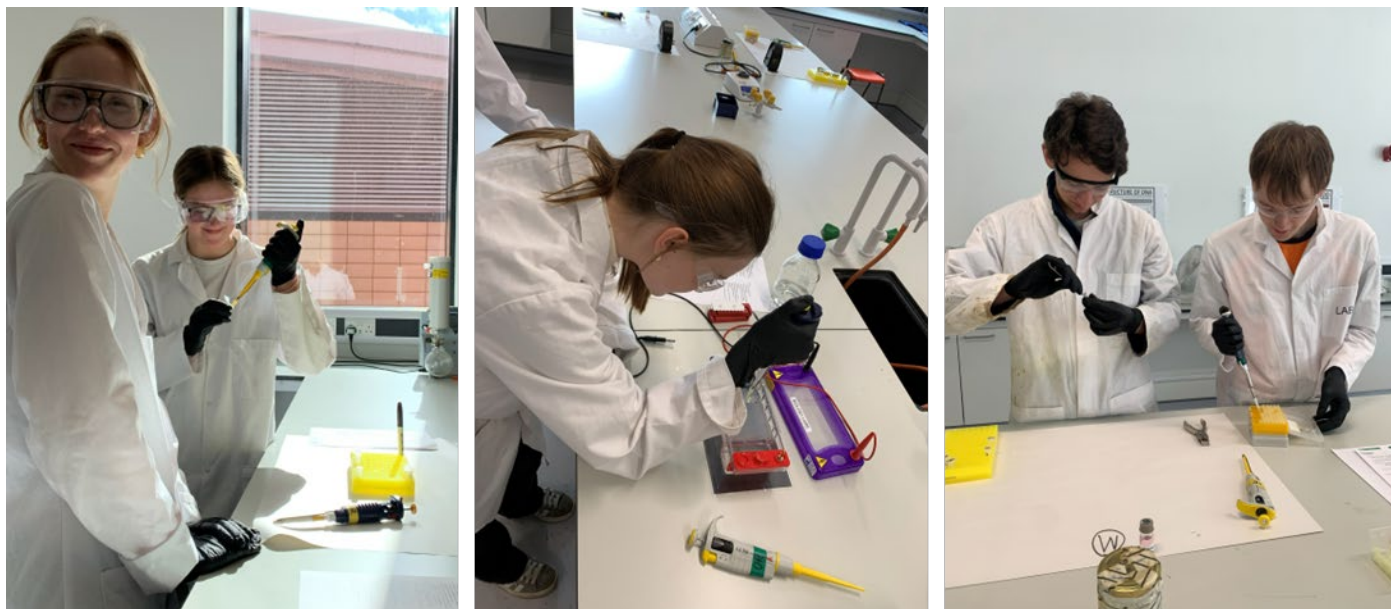
Special mentions got to Charlie for his three but also his work rate in defence when Guiseley countered. Toby for his goal, tenacity throughout the game and bite in midfield. Sam for his constant work rate in attack and defence. But the Player of the Match was Toby, for captaining the side superbly, for getting two assists as a keeper and for making two decisive saves in either half.

It's very much wait and see, to see if we have gone through to the knockout stages of the league cup. But, regardless of what happens the boys have been a credit throughout and roll on Year 9 where we will be playing 11 aside which will suit the boys even more. Please give them a massive well done as they are what encompasses all the best attributes that Year 8 have to offer. Hard working, honest, but also a really nice and down-to-earth bunch. Please find the most reluctantly taken picture in the world from last night.

Sixth Form at Horsforth News

Real Lab Science in Action

Our students visited Huddersfield University to take part in a hands-on plant PCR and electrophoresis practical. They amplified chloroplast DNA using PCR and analysed the results with electrophoresis – techniques used in real genetic research. A brilliant opportunity to explore DNA, understand how the processes work, and experience university-level science in action.



A Night to Remember!

A huge thank you to Stallion Records (our student record label run by our Year 12 and 13 music students) for putting together such an incredible Battle of the Bands 2026! The event was a huge success, with a record-breaking turnout of over 200 audience members – our biggest yet. The team spent hours helping to organise, finance, market, and support the bands leading up to the night, they hosted the evening and

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were all round fantastic role models for our Year 7 to 11 bands. You made the night so special – and that was down to your dedication to music!



Thank you, as always, for your support.

Yours faithfully

Dr P Bell
Headteacher

School Dinner Menu for the Week Ahead

Please click on the link below to view the food on offer for the coming week.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1YU5Iy5GO-H6-odpxhPOG8zIUwpletxJRyfSbz2tSY0A/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.*

Free School Meals

Your child may be eligible for free school meals. It's quick and easy to apply. To find out more, please visit <https://www.leeds.gov.uk/schools-and-education/apply-for-free-school-meals>

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