

Horsforth School

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Our Ref: PCB/TRH/JFI

22nd May 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we reach the end of a busy half term, I just want to thank our students, staff and yourselves for your positivity and efforts. Exams are going smoothly, students are showing great resilience and we are really looking forward to next term where we will have lots to look forward to. From Culture Day, sports day, Challenge 30 to the final end of year rewards celebrations there will be something for everyone.

Some great news in the letter this week so if your son or daughter is involved, please pass on my congratulations and thanks to them for representing the school.

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

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1GvnC_UCILxXJPp1IyW0WpFa3Hw0HWx_Q/view?usp=sharing

Leeds Schools Poetry Slam Final

A big well done to our students who took to the stage at the Carriageworks Theatre in Leeds for the annual Poetry Slam earlier this term. With fantastic support from Miss Martin, the group delivered powerful performances and represented the school brilliantly. They may not have taken the top prize, but they did an amazing job and should be incredibly proud!

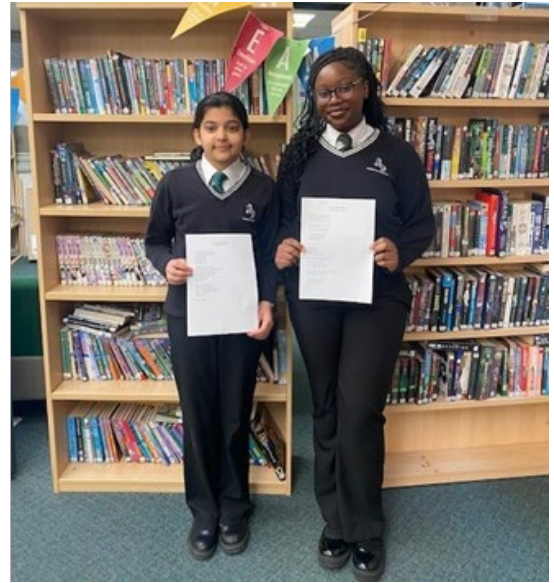


Culture Day Writing Competition

In preparation for our second Culture Day on Thursday 11th June, students were challenged to produce a creative writing piece entitled "A Sense of Belonging". There were over 30 excellent entries, but two

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students produced outstanding pieces of work: Mayamiko (Y10) and Fatima (Y8) who will receive a £20 Amazon voucher **and** have their work displayed as part of our Culture Day celebrations! Congratulations to both our winners and thank you to all the students who took part.



Yorkshire 3 Peaks Hike for Candlelighters

Staff at Horsforth School are taking on the iconic Yorkshire Three Peaks on Saturday 23 May 2026, following last year's successful climb of Ben Nevis. Covering 24 miles and over 1,500 metres of ascent across Pen-y-ghent, Whernside and Ingleborough, the team is pushing their limits to raise funds for The Candlelighters Trust, supporting children and families facing childhood cancer. They are aiming to raise £1,000 - every donation will make a real difference. Please support their challenge if you can by clicking on this link : www.justgiving.com/page/gabe-dillon-2?utm_medium=FA&utm_source=CL



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Year 7 Drama Club

Year 7 Drama club had a great time at The Alhambra Theatre this week watching *The Boy at the Back of the Class*. It was a brilliant play that gave us lots to talk about. Thanks to Ella and Felicity in Year 12 for helping and being brilliant ambassadors for the sixth form.



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Candlelighters Bake Sale



Mental Health and Wellbeing

The wellbeing of our students is of paramount importance to us. We have a planned and extensive personal development offer to support our students in retaining positive mental health and emotional wellbeing throughout their years with us. We offer a graduated approach to targeted support and work closely with outside agencies to signpost and support our young people. We recognise that the world is ever more complex for our children either through external pressures, social media, friendships, sudden changes in personal circumstances as well as the challenges brought on with exams or deadlines at school.

We have a team of student mental health ambassadors who work with our mental health leads to support our young people at the school and a new wellbeing corner in the library for additional help and support.

Please do see our website for advice and useful links under our safeguarding section and if you are worried about your son or daughter the Charlie Waller website is very useful for parents.

<https://charliewaller.org/mental-health-resources/supporting-a-child-with-depression>

Please do also contact your child's pastoral officer at the school should you need support from the school.

Who are the MindMate Support Team?

The MindMate Support Team offer early emotional wellbeing support for young people up to 18 years old in education settings across Leeds. Our service was developed in partnership with mental health services, education providers and young people. Our aim is to improve access to support for children and young

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people, to prevent any emotional wellbeing difficulties becoming harder to manage. We also work with staff in education settings to build cultures where wellbeing is prioritised for all.

Here, at Horsforth School we are already planning 121 and group CBT work with students, a parent drop-in session to meet the MMS team, and Mental Health Wellbeing training for our school Mental Health Coaches and staff.

<https://www.horsforthschool.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/MindMate-Support-Team-Leaflet.pdf>

Sports Fixtures

The Last Dance

Year 11 had one last dance at Leeds Beckett last night and came out 2-1 winners in a highly competitive game against Farnley Academy.

The first half started with Horsforth domination. In all honesty, we should've been up 2-0 in the space of 10 minutes. But Farnley grew into the game, and went 1-0 up after a lapse in concentration at the back. However, the boys decided to play football in the right areas, and a nice move in the right corner saw Captain Banham sweep the ball into the back of the net. 1-1 at halftime.

The second half moved away from football and became more of a History re-enactment. It was like a scene from Saving Private Ryan! Bodies from both sides were scattered around the pitch, as cramp took centre stage. With physio Grannon not letting the boys continue until they could tell him what injury would require RICE, rolling subs were called for, as players from both sides hobbled on and off! Neither side created clear cut chances, and we went to extra time.

Saving Private Ryan, soon turned into Braveheart as players from both sides were once again shot with cramp after only running a few feet. But out of virtually nothing, Horsforth managed to take the lead. A bobbling ball for about 30 yards out, fell to Alfie. He looked up, closed his eyes and hoped for the best. Joking aside, it was a fantastic strike and as it sailed into the top corner, the Horsforth ultras went into pandemonium. After that, the "cramp" became more frequent and as the clock ticked on, more bodies fell to the ground. Farnley players became angry stretcher bearers and Mr Bennett and Mrs Comiskey were nearly brought on for the final five. But Horsforth held on and on reflection just about deserved it.

It's often said that there were too many people to mention and in their last dance, they will all be mentioned! Sam produced his best game for Horsforth! He was immense in commanding his box, made some vital saves and at a time where Farnley were on top, he stood up. One of the toughest positions in any team, and last night he was simply superb!

The back line were outstanding. Leo, Zac and Josh were never beaten down the wings. Leo constantly offered a threat going forward. Zac was calm and composed on the ball. Josh won every header he went up for and communicated brilliantly when we were under the pump.

Charlie and Kupa were phenomenal in the centre of defence and never looked out of place. Kupa won every dual, and Charlie was calm and unfazed throughout. Every time Farnley attacked they could not break the pair. Both were close nominations for Player of the Match!

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Joe, Lucas, Ben and Alfie were relentless in midfield. Joe kept us ticking over, Ben was always there to clean up the pieces, Lucas was tenacious in everything he did, and Alfie offered that bit of creativity the game desperately needed. Josh was ever present upfront and gave us the physical and verbal bite we needed. Jake and Kardo were a constant threat and turned the Farnley defence throughout with their power, pace and dynamism. But the Player of the Match was Sam, who saved his best dance for his final Horsforth appearance! It would have been a 10 from Len!

The boys have been a credit to the school for the last five years. Under the watchful eye of Mr Maxwell, they've probably been one of the most successful teams we have had. Not only that, but they have grown from talented, cheeky Year 7s to charming young men in Year 11. It's never too much to take them as a team and the fact that every single one of them thanked me as they left last night, shows how much of a pleasure they are to take. I know Mr Maxwell is immensely proud of them, and as he recovered from his toenail operation, the voice note he sent to the boys was listened to with nothing but respect after the game.



Leeds Schools Cup Champions!

Our U16 football team produced a fantastic performance to beat Woodkirk 6-1 in the Leeds Cup Final last

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Thursday, meaning they take home the title of Leeds Schools Cup Champions! From the first whistle to the last, the team showed quality, determination, and teamwork to secure an incredible victory.

The girls were outstanding throughout the match and went into half-time with a commanding 4-0 lead after an excellent first-half display. They continued to play with confidence and energy in the second half, finishing the game as deserved winners with an impressive 6-1 scoreline. This is a massive achievement for the team and one that everyone involved should be extremely proud of. The players represented the school brilliantly and created a night to remember for all supporters.

A huge thank you goes to all the staff and parents who came to support the team. Your encouragement and support helped make the occasion even more special. It truly was an amazing night for everyone involved. The team now looks ahead to the League Final this Thursday at Leeds Beckett University, where they will aim to become champions once again. We have full faith that this talented group of players can complete an incredible double and bring home both trophies.



Sixth Form at Horsforth News

Future Lawyers in the Making

Our Year 12 Law students took part in the fantastic interactive afternoon with the BPP University outreach team. The day included pathways into Law, a criminal law workshop, and the opportunity to network with solicitors and trainees from the Leeds commercial law firm.

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A brilliant insight into the legal profession!



Sixth Form Golf Academy

The Sixth Form Golf Academy played really well in difficult conditions at The Bradford Golf Club on Tuesday afternoon.

Pair 1 - WGS 4&2, Pair 2 - WGS 3&2, Pair 3 - Horsforth - 3&1, Pair 4 - WGS 4&3

Woodhouse Grove won 3-1, however it was refreshing to give opportunities to several of our students who have recently gained and improved their handicaps, while some of our more experienced players were competing in another golf event. It proved to be a tough challenge against Woodhouse Grove, who held the advantage of playing at their home course, Bradford GC, where they benefit from regular experience. Despite this, Horsforth matched them every step of the way.

A huge well done to: Will, Aleks, Lewis, Ben, Jimmy, Ellie, Gethin and Caleb.



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Candlelighters Ice Lolly Sale



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/1YU51y5GO-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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