Horsforth School

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Headteacher: Dr P C Bell
Our Ref: PCB/TRH/JFI

23rd October 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we come to the end of the first half term I can look back on some exceptional achievements from our students and I would like to thank all students and staff for what has been a really positive 8 weeks. Year 11 have thrown themselves into their mocks, our Sixth Form has reached record numbers and our Year 7 have been brilliant at settling in and finding their way around.

Some lovely news this week but here's to another great half term up to Christmas.

As always, the link to the podcast version is here:
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Ax1hvMQcsghnmmT1MHBzteUYw4FfTXzr/view?usp=sharing

Horsforth Community Pantry Harvest Collection

Thank you to all of the Horsforth community for the incredible generosity demonstrated through the Harvest food collection! We have been able to donate a significant amount of essential food items to support Horsforth Community Pantry in helping local families.

The Horsforth Community Pantry is a project that seeks to address financial inequality. The Pantry work with partner organisations (Children's Services, the Children's Centre, MHA Communities), who refer individuals and families to the Community Pantry for support. Currently they are supporting around 100 individuals and families who are in need of essentials. We are delighted we have been able to contribute to such a worthwhile cause.

Leeds University Community Engagement Project
On Friday 16th October, Year 9 students in Student Parliament attended an engagement event led by third-year students from Leeds University as part of a community engagement project to improve facilities in Horsforth Hall Park. The project explores how public spaces in Horsforth could be improved to better support children and young people, with a particular focus on teenagers.

The students fully participated in giving important feedback that will inform future design decisions, making Horsforth's public spaces more inclusive, welcoming and better suited to young people. They were once again excellent ambassadors for our school!

Empowering the Next Generation of Innovators: TechFirst Girls' Competition 2026!
We are excited to share an opportunity for our Year 8 students to take part in the TechFirst Girls' Competition 2026! There will be an upcoming assembly specifically for Year 8 girls to introduce the competition, explain what's involved, and answer any questions.

This competition is designed for girls aged 12–13 and offers free online challenges to explore the cutting-edge technologies shaping our future including Artificial Intelligence, Cyber Security, Quantum Computing, and other technologies.

No previous technical knowledge or experience is required - it is open to all skill levels! Students will need to sign up in teams to solve the interactive challenges, compete for exciting prizes, and discover future career possibilities in tech.

Key Details:

- Assembly: Details on the date and time will be shared with Year 8 students directly in school.
- Registration Deadline: 10 November 2026
- More Info: Parents and students can learn more at techfirstgirls.co.uk.

Funded by the UK Government and supported by TechFirst and IBM, this is a fantastic chance for students to build confidence and digital skills. Please encourage your daughter to keep an eye out for the assembly details!

Uniform Checks and Standards
Some students have begun to push boundaries and breach the uniform policy this term.

A reminder that we do not permit any form of facial piercing and clear piercings do not subside these and are not permitted either. One pair of studs in the lower wear lobe is allowed only; no other ear rings. Bracelets and necklaces will be confiscated along with ear studs and other piercings. If they are confiscated after half term students will not get the time back until the last day for the Christmas break. We do not permit false eyelashes or nail varnish or fake nails. We do not permit trainers, and we do not permit any form of clothing, be it shorts, tracksuit pants, tights, or leggings under school trousers.

Students who breach the policy will be asked to remove the items and failure to do so will result in a full day in reflection.

Senior staff will be checking uniform on the return every morning. We thank you for your support, meeting basic standards contribute to our high expectations and success.

Christmas Card Competition 2026
Thank you for supporting and encouraging your child to take part in this much-loved school tradition. Entries can be emailed to marketing@horsforthschool.org or handed in at reception. Please ensure your child submits their entry by Friday 6th November to be considered.

Come and Work at our School
Take a look at our Vacancies webpage to view the current roles we are recruiting. We are currently looking for a **General Kitchen Assistant (West End)**. You can always call the school for a chat about any of the jobs on offer on 0113 2265454. Please share with anyone you think might like to join our team.

'Opportunity and achievement for all'

Sports Fixtures

Year 8 Football

The Year 8 Football Team came through a really tough game in the Leeds Cup on Monday night, beating Cockburn School away from home 4-3.

The game was played on a 7 aside pitch which made things really tight and with three of the opposition being nearly 6ft, throw-ins and set pieces were very difficult to defend. The boys put in a brilliant performance and went 1-0 up thanks to Ed with a tap-in at the back post from a Henry free kick. Two goals just after half time then put Cockburn in the lead but the boys showed some real grit and determination to stay in the game. A thunderbolt from Henry with about 10 mins to go levelled things out. Archie then picked out Christian who casually slotted home to make it 3-2. Christian then turned provider by beating three players before cutting the ball back for Dan to score with a minute left and at this point the game seemed over. Cockburn managed to score a fantastic free kick a minute later and made it a nervy end to the game for Horsforth, but the boys held out for a deserved win on the balance of play.

The Player of the Match was Bobby with a solid display at the back winning countless headers and tackles to keep Cockburn at bay, but Archie was also superb.

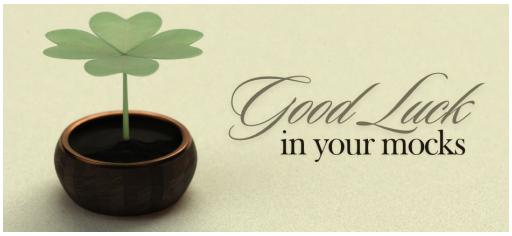
Year 9 Netball

Our Year 9 Team are unbeaten in their second fixture in the netball league, beating Morley 19-2! The player of the Match was Alice.

***Sixth Form at Horsforth* News**

Good Luck Year 13!

A Level mock exams begin straight after half-term, and we know how hard our students have been working to prepare. Wishing everyone the very best of luck.



European Champion

Felicity in Year 13 won gold in the WBC European Muay Thai Championships in Sardinia at the weekend. She beat a much more experienced French opponent for the very deserving win. Congratulations from us Felicity.

University Application Support

This week, some of our students met with Northumbria University to get their personal statements checked and receive advice. Our healthcare applicants also met with the University of Bradford for hints and tips on their applications. These were great opportunities to help our students feel prepared for their next steps!

Road Safety in Action

Sixth Form students took part in an important road safety event, led by Cookridge Fire Service. The session began with an educational talk before students watched a road traffic collision (RTC) extrication demonstration, showing how emergency services work together to help people involved in accidents. Students also visited interactive stalls covering water safety, e-bike and e-scooter battery fire awareness, and Vision Zero road safety, where they could try reaction tests and impaired-vision driving goggles. The Police, Fire Service and British Red Cross were also on hand to share advice, information and details of the support available following accidents and emergencies.

It was a valuable opportunity for students to learn more about staying safe, understanding the risks on our roads and the vital work of our emergency services.

Sold Out!

Thank you for the incredible interest in our November sixth form open evening. If you couldn't secure a ticket, bookings are now open for our next event on **21st January 2027**.

You don't have to attend an open evening before applying to join our sixth form. Applications will open on 12th November and will close for Horsforth School students on 18th December. You are still welcome to come to our January open event if you are unable to in November.

>> Book Your Tickets <<

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.
Click here to view the Week 3 menu.

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

'Opportunity and achievement for all'