

Horsforth School

Lee Lane East Horsforth

Leeds LS18 5RF

Tel: 0113 226 5454

Fax: 0113 226 5401

Email: info@horsforthschool.org

Website: www.horsforthschool.org

Headteacher: Dr P Bell

Parent/Carer

Our ref: PCB

Date: 01/05/2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you are all safe and well,

We continue to open to children of Key Workers and our most vulnerable students but have no news as to when we will re-open. The Secretary of State for Education has stated that any re-opening will be phased but that re-opening schools in some form will be part of the loosening of lock down restrictions.

I would like to update you on a few developments and some useful links.

Remote learning

We will be delivering 2 hours of 'taught' lessons to Year 10 starting on Monday across all subjects. Some will involve prerecorded video lessons that students can access at any time and others will be virtual lessons taught in real time that students will access at the time they would have their usual lesson. It is therefore important that they check their Googleclassrooms every day at 8.30. This is also happening in some Year 7, 8, 9 and 12 lessons.

Remote learning Year 12

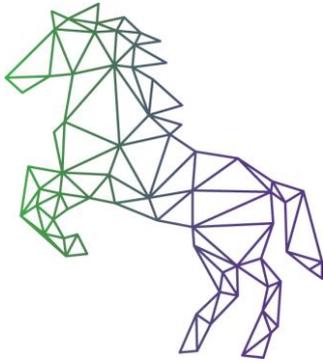
Year 12 are continuing to be set work via the subject specific Google classrooms and most are doing extremely well coping with the demands of the work and this new way of learning.

It is essential that Year 12 students check their google classrooms and school email accounts regularly (ensuring their inbox is not full), particularly over the coming weeks as much important information is shared this way. In particular guidance for the UCAS application process for University places 2021 will be starting very soon and we want all of our students to keep up to date with their applications.

Preparing to join our Sixth Form

We continue to add useful bridging resources to the Year 11 into 12 Transition site (<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1V29nvM2vGX9l8f1yssiKVjZkBIjdUGMG>) to help support those in Year 11 wanting to start A Level studies in September.

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The resources are designed to help support the 'jump' from GCSE to A Level and to better prepare our students for the demands of Level 3 courses. Please encourage them to check the pages for the subjects they are interested in studying at least weekly in order to see the new resources that are being uploaded regularly.

Work experience for Year 10

In light of current circumstances, several events in the school calendar have had to be cancelled or postponed. It is with regret that we need to cancel this year's work experience for year 10 students. This was scheduled for the week commencing 8th June 2020. Although this will come as a disappointment to many, our students' safety and wellbeing is our number one priority. The school will discuss potential opportunities we can explore in the future to support our students experience and skills from work based learning.

Bereavement

In this difficult time some families and young people have those close to them. We also attach a leaflet with some useful links which we hope will be of some support.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

Maintaining our wellbeing is vital. The links below take you to some excellent websites full of useful tips, guidance and support for either yourself or your child in keeping a positive mind set during this difficult time. There are specific links for support with anxiety, low mood and depression.

Please do not hesitate to contact the pastoral team if you have concerns around mental health, the team can access local support through Horsforth Children's Services and offer support through regular phone calls and bespoke activities with your child. Please email pastoralhub@horsforthschool.org

www.mind.org.uk

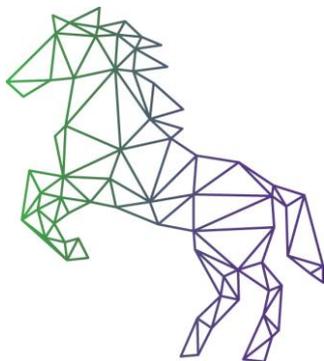
www.mindmate.org.uk/

www.mentalhealth.org.uk/publications/looking-after-your-mental-health-during-coronavirus-outbreak

www.nhs.uk/conditions/stress-anxiety-depression/talking-to-children-about-feelings/

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing>

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Pastoral Team Contact

Please can I take this opportunity to remind you to ask your son/daughter to check regularly their school email account, read and respond to the emails. This is the main way that staff are contacting your child. The pastoral team will be making further contact and welfare checks over the coming weeks and school email is the main tool used.

Term dates for next year

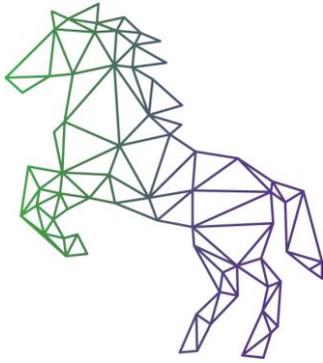
We do not know when school will return and to how many students but I did want to share with you our term dates for next academic year.

Term	School opens to students	School closes to students
Autumn 1	Monday 7 September 2020	Friday 23 October 2020
Autumn 2	Monday 2 November 2020	Friday 18 December 2020
Spring 1	Monday 4 January 2021	Friday 12 February 2021
Spring 2	Monday 22 February 2021	Thursday 1 April 2021
Summer 1	Monday 19 April 2021	Friday 28 May 2021
Summer 2	Monday 7 June 2021	Friday 23 July 2021
Additional closures:	Date:	Reason:
	Friday 27 November 2020	Training day 1
	Monday 30 November 2020	Training day 2
	Monday 28 June 2021	Training day 3
	Monday 26 July 2021	Training day 4
	Tuesday 27 July 2021	Training day 5
	Friday 2 April 2021	Good Friday
Monday 3 May 2021	May day bank holiday	
Early closures:	Date:	Reason:
	Thursday 1 October 2020	Open evening
	Friday 18 December 2020	Christmas break
	Friday 11 June 2021	Sports Day
	Friday 23 July 2021	End of academic year

Learning at home for adults and students

If you have free time at home there are free courses available through the new online platform, the Skills Toolkit. This platform signposts to free, high-quality digital and numeracy courses to help

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people build up their skills, progress in work and boost their job prospects and confidence whilst at home.

Courses on offer cover a range of levels, from everyday maths and the use of email and social media at work to more advanced training. All courses are available online and are flexible so that people can work through them at their own pace.

<https://theskillstoolkit.campaign.gov.uk/>

You may want to have a look at MOOC's (Massive Online Open Courses) with these two links offering many free courses on a huge range of subjects which go to degree and master level:

<https://www.futurelearn.com/>

<https://www.mooc.org/>

Thank you again, I hope you and your family remain safe.

Yours faithfully

Dr P Bell

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