

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: 15/05/2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you are all safe and well. I am sure you are aware of the recent Government announcement and we have been working in the background in anticipation of this.

The Government has announced that:

*“From the week commencing **1 June 2020** at the earliest, we will ask **secondary schools, sixth form** and further education colleges to offer some face-to-face support to supplement the remote education of **year 10 and year 12** students who are due to take key exams next year, alongside the full time provision they are offering to priority groups”*

I would like to tell you our current thinking and the work that will be ongoing in preparation.

This week 187 Headteachers met with Councillor Blake, Councillor Pryor, Councillor Venner and Public Health England (over zoom) and discussed the implications for schools in Leeds, Wakefield and Bradford. It was agreed that a joined up strategy was needed and re-opening schools needed the support of Health care professionals, medical advisors and the Leeds Health and Safety team.

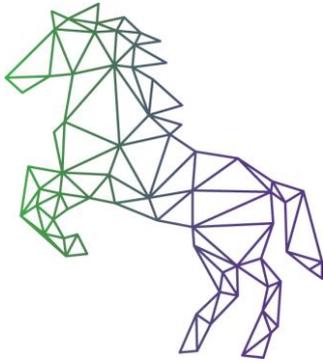
Therefore a working party has been set up to provide schools with this information required to reopen. Medical advice, risk assessments, checklists and health and safety guidelines will be provided over the next two weeks to help schools reopen safely during this ongoing pandemic.

Until further guidance arrives we will plan based upon the following principles:

1. Student and staff safety is paramount
2. We will follow the advice of Leeds City Council and that of the Government
3. We will start with small numbers on staggered days and scale up if safe, practical and the Governments five tests are met
4. Remote learning for other Year groups will continue

During the next week the Government will give us further guidance and I hope to update you with greater detail as soon as I am able.

‘Opportunity and achievement for all’



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Staying safe online

Due to high usage of technology including social media at the time, we want to give a second reminder about the importance of online safety. Please share these tips with your children.

Keep personal information private; do not share personal details like your address, school, phone number or location. Avoid posting anything that can identify you to a specific location.

Make sure your security settings are in place so that you control who sees anything you share online and check these regularly.

Remember that people online are not always who they say they are. Never agree to meet someone in person you have only met online. If someone makes you feel uncomfortable online, log off or block them and tell a trusted adult. Use reporting buttons to report inappropriate behaviour.

Think before you post or send anything online, would you be happy for anyone to see it? Even if you send something privately the person you are sending it to could screenshot it and share it.

Don't accept or open files from people you don't know they could contain viruses or inappropriate messages.

Not all information online is reliable, check if it is a trusted source before using it. Beware of pop ups that take you to less trusted sites and check web addresses look genuine.

It's good to know what's going on in the world but if it gets too much **take a break** from it and do something that takes you off line and helps you relax or focus on something else.

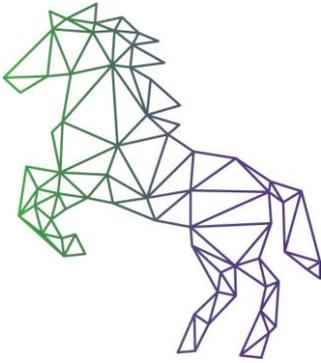
If you have any concerns about your child's online activity and you wish to speak to a safeguarding officer at school, please email Mrs Nowell or Mr Bennett via pastoralhub@horsforthschool.org. Or visit www.thinkyouknow.co.uk and click on the parent pages for further advice and information.

Remote Learning

Please can we remind students that they should be checking their Horsforth School email daily as this is where important information is shared with them around resources, support and remote learning.

Following on from the success of launching 'first teaching' live and recorded lessons with Year 10, we have now rolled it down into Year 9. Please can Year 9 parents and students check their emails for further details from Mrs Comiskey.

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Remote Learning Year 12

Several parents of sixth form students have asked for some clarification of our expectations around how much work Year 12 students should be completing each week. The work that is being set by teachers in each subject area should require the students to spend around 10 hours per week per subject studying. This may include; discrete lessons (some of which will be recorded), continuations in project work, specific set activities such as past paper questions or essay planning and more open-ended independent research tasks. Many thanks for your continued support with these matters.

Motivation & Wellbeing

I am attaching two leaflets I hope you will find useful on student motivation and wellbeing. Keeping motivated when not seeing teachers day to day is difficult so please have a look if you have the time as it holds some useful tips and we hope the tips for keeping wellbeing high.

Staff have asked me to pass on their thanks over the positive messages you have sent in, they are most welcome at this time.

Thank you again for your continued support. I hope you and your family remain safe.

Yours faithfully

Dr P Bell