



Horsforth School

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Parent/Carer

Our ref: PCB

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Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this letter finds you, your family and friends safe and well.

Student Safety and Wellbeing

Please find attached a leaflet from Leeds City Council on how your child can stay safe online with particular reference to online exploitation. We always recommend that parents monitor their child's online usage and the information given will help you protect your child.

I would also like to re-share the links below, around wellbeing and mental health.. The links 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.

www.mind.org.uk

www.mindmate.org.uk/

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

On Monday 15th June, your child will be emailed a specific activity that they can complete at home about remaining positive during this time. **Please ensure your son/daughter checks their email first thing** in the morning to access this.

Please do not hesitate to contact the pastoral team if you have any pastoral concerns around mental health or generic wellbeing: 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

'Opportunity and achievement for all'

SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development)

As part of our commitment to SMSC education, on Monday 15th June, all students in years 7-10 will have a Lifeskills lesson for their first class of the day. This is both as a response to recent events around the Black Lives Matter movement and to reinforce the school's stance on equality; students will use their first lesson of the day to watch a video that staff have put together and work through a series of resources after this.

Relationships and Sex Education

The Department for Education has made Relationships and Sex Education statutory for September 2020. In preparation for this we are re-writing our curriculum and policy for this and as part of this we do need to consult with parents and carers. We will be sending more information to you in due course.

Reopening Horsforth School

Next week we are welcoming back our Year 10 and 12 students for face to face contact to supplement their remote learning and we continue to provide supervision for students who are from Key Worker families.

We are only allowed to bring back Years 10 and 12 and to have a maximum of ¼ of students from these Year groups in school at any one time. We know they are working hard on their remote learning and we would much prefer them to be in school. However, this is not currently possible. Our risk assessment, using the Leeds City Council format for reopening is available here:

<https://www.horsforthschool.org/about/policies-procedures-statutory-documentation/#risk>.

We have aimed to go above and beyond the guidance.

I know that many students in Years 7, 8 and 9 may be disappointed that school has not yet reopened for them. I know students are working hard on their remote learning but would much prefer to be in school.

To be clear, if it were safe, I would have everyone back tomorrow. Schools exist for children and without them they are quieter and less joyful. As a staff we went into teaching because we love student's questions, hearing their laughter and most importantly, helping them grow and learn.

I have recorded a short message for students of Years 7, 8 and 9 if they would like watch it:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q46sEh7jUxg>

We have not forgotten you, we know you are working hard (except in very rare exceptions) and we miss you. The school is too quiet without you.

We have no further details but things change on a daily basis. We find out announcements regarding schools closure and opening at the same times as the general public. I say this not to complain or criticise (the Government has a very difficult job) but to make you aware that we usually have the same information as available in the public domain.

'Opportunity and achievement for all'

We are planning for a full opening in September if it is safe and unless advised otherwise. If anything changes we will let you know as soon as we can.

I look forward to the time we are able to welcome everyone back.

Yours faithfully,

Dr Paul Bell