



Horsforth School

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Our ref: PCB

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Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you are safe and well. We continue to remain open to vulnerable students and children of critical workers and have also opened to Years 10 and 12 for face to face contact to support their remote learning.

The work we have done to the building to support social distancing, the extra resources for sanitization and the plans we have in place have meant that we have had a very smooth re-opening and no issues. We are only allowed to have $\frac{1}{4}$ of Year 12 and $\frac{1}{4}$ of Year 10 in at anyone time and so we are only able to provide 1 day per week of contact but it is wonderful to see them again, we have missed our students!

Social Distancing Reminder

Please remind your son/daughter to follow the social distancing guidelines outside of school. Students returning have been wonderful but we are hearing reports of students not following the guidelines outside of school. We understand this is a difficult situation but if you could reiterate the 2m distance rule and not meeting friends from other households but we greatly appreciate your support with this.

Remote learning in Years 7, 8 & 9

We are working on a plan to increase the number of live and recorded lessons to students not returning this year (although all students should be receiving some of their learning as recorded/live lessons) and we also want to be able to diagnose how well remote learning has gone for students and provide feedback with areas for students to celebrate and improve. As a result, we are going to look into online assessments which we can give detailed feedback on.

Focus on Mental Health

On Tuesday Of this week, students in years 7-11 were emailed a leaflet made our mental health champion. This contains top tips and activities which students can do at home to help keep their mind and moods positive, as well as some signposting for further advice. Next week, students will be emailed a video link about good mental health at this time.

Next week, we will email our students with a link to a survey to ascertain their voice and feelings about their own sense of wellbeing and safety during Covid. We hope to use the feedback to tailor more bespoke interventions with our pastoral team.

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Assemblies

To support the personal development of our students, on Thursday this week, we emailed a video assembly to all students. This was on the theme of togetherness. We aim to do this once a week for the rest of this term.

Celebrating Year 11 and 13

We are discussing ways we can celebrate the time students in Year 11 and 13 have spent at Horsforth remotely and hope to have a plan soon. Being able to host a physical assembly or Prom will be impossible in the near future but we do want to be able to celebrate your hard work, your triumphs and your friendships.

We aim to be able to let you know soon but please let us know if you have any great ideas.

Year 11 transition

You may feel that your Year 11 ended in a melancholy and disappointing way. Just a reminder that we hope your time with us is not over and that you return in September as part of our Sixth Form.

Please continue to use the Year 11 transition site to support your transition to Year 12 and do get in contact if you have any concerns or worries.

<https://sites.google.com/view/y11-into-12-transition-work/home>

Mrs Wright will be sending a separate letter next week regarding the transition process.

Creative Success!

We recently ran a creative writing competition and were bowled over by some of the entries. We asked students to read Simon Armitage's poem 'Lockdown' and respond to a line of the poem in a creative way.

The winning entry was by Laraib in Year 8, and here is her creation, carry on reading if you like a haunting read and want to be amazed!

Well done Laraib, you should be very proud of your work.

The Covent / The Shadow that Came to Life

It was sixty-three minutes past twelve.

The tumult of the wind vigorously rattled the delicate stained-glass windows in their ill-fitting frames. The air hypnotically see-through, rare. The rain pattered dismally against the panes like a banshee, which were dimly-lit by the flickering of a half-extinguished candle-light. Climbing out of the wall, the shadows of former organists crept through their once familiar pipes. Echoes of piercing hymns vibrated the hollow walls and shook the rusty, half-empty goblets of crimson liquid. Lurking in the shadows of the pulpit, a lean, translucent priest whispered his once favoured sermon. Kneeling before him, a black silhouette bowed in appreciation of his powerful words.

Above the ligneous pews were slender pillars engraved with markings, clawing at the ceiling. The moon, forever visible; its broad disk skirting the thick fog bleeding into the dark, everlasting navy-blue sky. Tiptoeing through the

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shattered window, the ray of moon enhanced the thick blanket of dust set on the floor accompanied by a scientist and a lifeless shadow.

The scientist's lustrous black hair, dun white eyes and perfectly placed ivory coat hung loosely off his skinny shoulders. Infused with a spark, the shadow jolted to life. The scientist was astonished by the shadow he brought to life. A cry of desperation and anguish came from the once overlooked shadow but catapulting into the present, now made of flesh, blood and bone.

Her pale, pasty, white skin creased and crevassed by distress, scarcely covered architectural work of veins and arteries. Shuddering open, her slate-grey irises were drained of colour like bullets pulsating through spines and reaching into people's souls. The nun's head cloth revealed jet-black, coarse, wiry hair horridly contrasted with her shrivelled complexion; parched purple lips and grey bags, hung beneath her watery eyes.

All of existence stopped dead in its tracks.

Finally, thank you again for your ongoing support and feedback. I know this is an extremely difficult time for you and your families. It will be difficult for many different reasons so whether these are difficult times because of finances, balancing home working and remote learning, shielding a loved one, coping with bereavement or struggling with the social distancing rules then our thoughts are with you. Please contact the school if we can support in any of these areas.

Yours faithfully,

Dr Paul Bell

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