

Horsforth School

Lee Lane East Horsforth

Leeds LS18 5RF

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Email: info@horsforthschool.org

Website: www.horsforthschool.org

Headteacher: Dr P Bell

Our ref: PCB

Date: 26/06/2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

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

It's been wonderful to have students back in main school, I don't think that we, as a staff, realised how much we missed them. I have to say that when I greet students on the gate they are following the 2m rule extremely well and have been an absolute delight.

Thank you for your ongoing patience with the situation we all find ourselves in. We have brought back the maximum number of students that we are able to (25% of Year 12 and 25% of Year 10 a day) so I know that many students in Years 7, 8 and 9 may be frustrated and wishing they were back. As per the Prime Minister's announcement we are planning to open to all students again in September as long as the guidance and situation allows and as soon as I have more definite information to share with you I will.

We continue to run our Key Worker provision as we have since we shut to most students in March but the understanding we have from the Department of Education is that this will not run over the summer break.

Re-opening to Years 10 and 12

Our re-opening of school has been a great success, 100% of staff polled agreed (39%) or strongly agreed (61%) that "I feel the school is safe with the preparations in place".

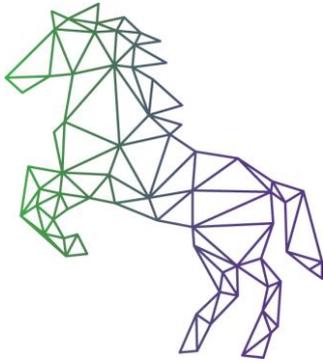
We do want to refresh our registers so if parents in Year 10 and 12 could complete the registers survey for the final 3 weeks of term please.

I would like to stress that now we are welcoming students back in these year groups you must attend unless you are self isolating or shielding.

10A bubble attendance survey:

<https://forms.gle/5P6UrSMLC8ngdzvG7>

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10B bubble attendance survey:

<https://forms.gle/27evz3aSntsXxANx8>

12 bubble attendance survey:

<https://forms.gle/fnAJfdLFSUdZZ2TK9>

Dangers of swimming in open water

Whilst I am very thankful for the wonderful weather (which, now I write about it will no doubt cease) please could you talk to your sons and daughters over the dangers of open water swimming. It is incredibly easy to find yourself in difficulty and at the same time the water (such as reservoirs) can be surprisingly cold despite the temperature on land. This can lead to shock or simply a sharp, involuntary intake of breath which, if underwater, can be deadly. I do not want to scare students unnecessarily but I do desperately want to make sure we welcome everyone back in September. Please see the link if you would like a very recent example:

<https://www.westyorkshire.police.uk/news-appeals/dont-be-tempted-police-and-partners-warn-danger-swimming-open-water>

Home education

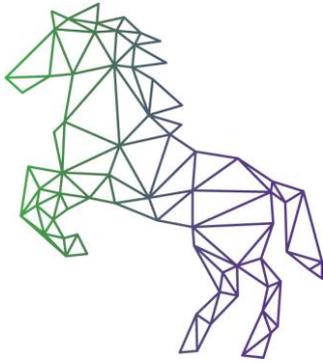
I understand that one of the greatest challenges you have had over lockdown has been to work from home, support your son/daughter's wellbeing (and mood!) and at the same time keep them learning.

I appreciate this as the Headteacher of Horsforth School but also as a parent of a Year 4 with special educational needs and a bright Year 6 working at greater depth.

We, as parents, have no magic wand and we all need to balance encouragement, praise, cajoling and occasionally the threat of sanctions. You may sometimes want to stretch your son/daughter beyond the learning set (please do!). So whether it's a discussion over a documentary, exploring an atlas or a philosophical discussion if you are running dry on ideas or resources I hope you find the link below helpful:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-online-education-resources>

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Keeping safe online

Whilst I am aware this is a second warning in a row it bears repeating that staying safe online is incredibly difficult and the challenges are constantly evolving. The Government has updated their guidance and the link is below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-keeping-children-safe-online>

Remote learning feedback

During these unprecedented times schools have had to deliver lessons in unique and innovative ways. Horsforth School are keen to know how we've done and if we can make any improvements to our online provision for students. As a result we are asking students to complete a short questionnaire about their experiences of remote learning so we can continue to deliver and provide the best work possible. A link for the questionnaire will be emailed to students directly and can also be found below:

<https://forms.gle/tiFLyEH7HNHd8UUx5>

Year 7 & 8 -Remote Learning Timetable

On Monday 29th June Year 7 and 8 students will be starting their new remote learning timetable that was emailed home yesterday. The new timetable will give students more live and pre-recorded lessons from all of their subjects, allowing students to ask questions about the work being set, get more feedback and interact with their teachers over the last three weeks leading up to the end of the summer term.

Here are the instructions for your son/daughter;

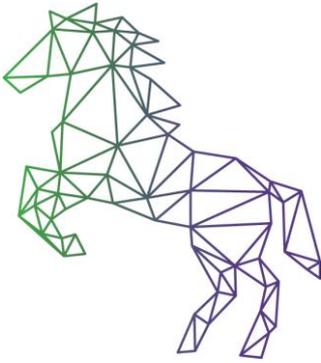
Year 7 <https://youtu.be/oJtbFGNGWAI>

Year 8 <https://youtu.be/ir25PaciuS8>

Assessment

We are aiming to set Years 7, 8, 9 and 10s a set of multiple choice and short questions on remote learning so far. This will allow us to give feedback on students' successes, gaps in knowledge and set challenge tasks aimed at closing those gaps in knowledge. We will not be interested in the scores or giving grades to reduce pressure on students, these are for diagnostic, feedback purposes.

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A letter will be going out next week with more details about these online assessments and how students can access them.

Thank you for your ongoing messages of support and feedback over live and recorded lessons. I had a wonderful example of one of our lovely Year 7's teaching her sister Mandarin sent through to me. If you have an example of great work at home please forward a photo, clip or example as it really does lift my and all teachers' days when students do something amazing.

I hope as we move into a loosening of lockdown restrictions you are getting to see loved ones again, feeling as optimistic as I am but most of all, staying safe.

Yours faithfully

Dr P Bell

Headteacher

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