



Horsforth School

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Our Ref: PCB/TRH

13th November 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you, your family and friends are safe and well.

We had some great news this week around an effective vaccine and I will update you on any information I get regarding how this links to school but in the meanwhile we are rigorously and successfully sticking to our control measures. As ever, our students have been wonderful in supporting these measures in school and our contact tracing system remains 100% efficient.

When not to come to school

It is vitally important that you do not attend school if:

1. You show any of these symptoms:
 - a. A high temperature
 - b. A loss of taste or smell
 - c. A persistent cough
2. Someone in your household or support bubble shows those symptoms
3. You are awaiting the results of a COVID test
4. You are planning on getting a COVID test
- 5.

Please support us in this. If this is not followed and you have been in school and test positive it affects more people than you would imagine:

- Other students who have had close contact with you have to isolate for 14 days. This makes learning more difficult and some students have been affected by this more than once. You may not wish to miss a day but it can mean lots of your friends miss 2 weeks. For students in Year 11 and 13 it is a massive concern.
- The contact tracing process is quite difficult and complex and takes us away from key duties in the school.
- You may pass on the virus to a vulnerable student or staff member with tragic results.
- You may be part of a transmission chain that affects someone extremely vulnerable with tragic results.

Social distancing outside of school

'Opportunity and achievement for all'

Please discuss with your son/daughter that the restriction on meeting people outside of your household applies to all ages and whilst 99% of students are adhering to this it is important to remember you can meet one member of another household for outside exercise only if you are alone.

This is now law with Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN) starting at £200 rising to a maximum of £6400.

Remembrance Day

We always commemorate Armistice Day with 2 minutes silence. This year the school stopped and had a collective (remote) assembly. We cannot do our normal activities and large gatherings are impossible but our remote remembrance was an opportunity for us all to reflect on how lucky we are as well as remember the fallen. If you are interested the link is enclosed.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1PhxOH0TCu2jc_KFzyONHqWjX6pj50xTC/view?usp=sharing

Exams in 2021

The exams are still scheduled to take place in England this summer, albeit starting three weeks later than usual. The Government has produced a blog which may answer more questions you may have. As soon as I have any concrete news I will update you.

https://dfemedia.blog.gov.uk/2020/10/13/delay-to-2021-exams-your-questions-answered/?utm_source=12%20November%202020%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19

Updated information for Parents and Carers

The Government has issued updated information linked to education during lockdown:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-in-the-autumn-term>

Recommended reads

I know a lockdown can mean a screen dominates our lives whether the TV, a mobile, tablet or PC. It's great to take a break and our English department has collated some 'recommended reads' if you are looking for suggestions.

Please encourage your sons and daughters to lose themselves in a book. It can be great for wellbeing and a high reading age is directly linked to how well someone does in exams later on in life.

<https://www.horsforthschool.org/school/get-lost-in-a-lockdown-book/>

Learning Journeys

If you would like to see what your son or daughter is learning in each subject, then you can visit the 'What You Learn' section of our school website for the relevant year group. Each subject has produced a Learning Journey, showing an overview of the topics and concepts that students learn in their subject as they progress through each year. You can access these by hovering over the tab for the correct year group. Whilst there may have been some slight tweaks due to the lockdown, we hope that, particularly in the current climate, you find these useful.

Year 7: <https://www.horsforthschool.org/school/learning-journeys-year-7/>

'Opportunity and achievement for all'

Year 8: <https://www.horsforthschool.org/school/learning-journeys-year-8/>

Year 9: <https://www.horsforthschool.org/school/learning-journeys-year-9/>

Year 10: <https://www.horsforthschool.org/school/learning-journeys-year-10/>

Year 11: <https://www.horsforthschool.org/school/learning-journeys-year-11/>

Anti- Bullying Week: 16th - 20th Nov

To raise awareness of the importance of our Anti-Bullying messages in school, we will be using the national Anti-Bullying week to work with all students on this important issue. Students will see a special remote assembly led by the Anti- Bullying Alliance and will complete activities in form time to raise further awareness and to show a united stance against bullying. Friday 20th November will be a full non-uniform day in school. But there is a twist! We will ask students and staff to wear one blue item. This is the colour of the Anti-Bullying campaign and charity. We ask that students wear either a blue jumper, top, hoodie, trousers, jeans, leggings or shoes. Staff will take part in this day too and we look forward to sharing with you the work and photos on our website and social media.

It is my hope that by spring and with a vaccine we may be able to bring the school to a new normal. I will always prioritise student and staff safety but, as a staff we would love to begin running trips again, get our extensive extra-curricular offer back up and running and to offer those experiences that matter so much outside the classroom. Until then please bear with us and fingers crossed we will be able to welcome loved ones to Christmas dinner.

Thank you for your steadfast support and kind words. As always, this makes a difficult time so much easier.

Yours faithfully

Dr P Bell
Headteacher