

As our first full term of this academic year comes to an end, I am writing to share some of the lovely things that have taken place but also to let you know some important dates for your diary.

## End of Term and New Term Key Information

The last day of term for all students is Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December. Form groups will watch a virtual assembly and have time to celebrate and reflect and then school will close early as follows:

Year 7	1.20pm
Year 8	1.40pm
Year 9	1.40pm
Year 10	1.20pm
Year 11	1.50pm
Year 12	12.50pm
Year 13	12.50pm

The new school term will start on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January. Please see my earlier letter which has full details of which Year groups must come to school and those who need to access remote learning from home.

## Students Successes

Without doubt we are extremely proud of all our students, their hard work and the effort they put into their studies and extra-curricular activities.

We wanted to start by mentioning our students' success over the summer. The last academic year was like no other, but given the circumstances our students' hard work, resilience and dedication was rewarded when they received their GCSE and A Level results.

At GCSE, 66% of our students achieved a strong pass (5+) in English and mathematics and 85% of our students achieved a standard pass.

At A Level, 28% of all A Level grades awarded were at A\*-A, the average grade achieved was a B across all A Level subjects and nearly 12% of our students achieved at least 3 A grades or better.

We couldn't have been prouder for what was a tough year.



Here are some of our other highlights:

- A big well done to Lauren Turner (Year 11) and Jessie Turner (Year 8) who both auditioned and were successful in joining the City of Leeds Youth Orchestra this term – talented family!
- Our Year 10 drama students were all awarded with their Arts Awards certificate for The Bronze Arts Award
- Having competed in the Senior Maths Challenge, winning a gold award, Tom Sweeney (Year 13) qualified for the follow up round, the Senior Kangaroo (results are imminent). Meanwhile, Theo Jacques (Year 12), having won a gold award and finished "best in school" qualified for the prestigious follow up round, the British Maths Olympiad round 1 (results also imminent). Both fantastic achievements for our Maths A Level students
- Mrs Webber from the English department has been busy editing together a collection of some of the amazing creative writing and pieces of artwork our students produced during the first national lockdown. The PTA have kindly agreed to contribute towards the cost of printing some initial copies of the 'Unlocked Words' anthology so that we can share their achievements and present a copy to all those who contributed. Watch this space for more details!

## We're Getting Christmassy

Although a lot of things are quite different in the run up to Christmas this year, we're still getting into the festive spirit.



Our school Christmas card features a photograph taken by Alexander McCormick in Year 9. The adorable robin will be sent out to wish schools across Leeds a very Merry Christmas.

And, like every other year, our school Christmas tree takes pride of place in our reception area. Mrs Kitching really does do a wonderful decorating job, so thank you very much.



## Student Superstars

A huge well done to all the students who are consistently trying hard in their lessons and achieving high Attitude to Learning (ATL) scores of 5 and 6 in all of their subjects. The parents/carers of the top 20 students in each year group will have received a text or email congratulations.

Our first letters of 'Commendation' were sent out recently and we were thrilled with the number of students to receive them. Each student reached 200 Reward Credits in our first half-term and reaching this score is an excellent achievement. It shows that students have maintained an exemplary attitude and approach and have consistently brought their best to school life, even more so in these challenging times.

Big congratulations to all our student superstars, you know who you are!

*'Opportunity and achievement for all'*

## Learning from Home

Like every school up and down the country, we've had to adapt quickly to the world we are living in and remote learning is just one of them. [If your child is self-isolating or their bubble is working remotely they can access the remote learning website and continue to study.](#)

Thank you for supporting your child if they have had to work at home, we really do appreciate it.

## A Little Helping Hand

We've been overwhelmed by the support we've received for our food and present bank initiatives.

Your effort has been tremendous and your generosity will make a huge difference to a lot of families over the next couple of weeks.

We're going to distribute both the food and presents to families who've requested some support from us. Any excess food will be donated to the North West Food Bank and presents to some charities that will be doing their best to ensure no child has nothing to open on Christmas morning.

We wanted to say thank you very much.



## We Went Virtual

Every year in October and November we invite Year 6 and Year 11 students to come to our school for our open evenings. We love the buzz of both our evenings to show how wonderful our school, sixth form and students are to prospective students.

This year we got creative by going virtual and our staff and students did a superb job of showing off how wonderful our school and sixth form really are. Thank you to everyone involved in the creation of our [main school virtual open event](#) and our [sixth form virtual open event](#).

If you know anyone thinking of looking to move to a different sixth form, please share our link.

*'Opportunity and achievement for all'*

## Bad Weather Procedure



Just a reminder, that if bad weather impacts our ability to open the school, we will do one of three things:

1. A short delay opening (1 lesson)
2. A longer delay opening (2 lessons)
3. Shut the school for the day and [set remote learning for students](#).

### How We Will Notify You?

1. Text
2. Email
3. [Our school website](#)
4. [Leeds City Council school closures section](#)

If you do not hear from us then we will be open as normal. Please only phone the school in an emergency.

### What Will a Delayed Start Look Like?

#### Short Delay:

Year 7 arrive (front gate) at 9:10 and go straight to form  
Year 8 arrive (back gate) at 10:30 and go to their lesson 2  
Year 9 arrive (front gate) at 10:30 and go to their lesson 2  
Year 10 arrive at (back gate) at 9:10 and go straight to form  
Year 11 arrive (back gate) at 9:30 and go to their lesson 2  
Year 12 (back side gate) and 13 (front gate) arrive at 9:30 **IF** they have a lesson 2

#### Longer Delay:

Year 7 arrive (front gate) at 10:10 and go straight to form  
Year 8 arrive (back gate) at 10:30 and go to their lesson 2  
Year 9 arrive (front gate) at 10:30 and go to their lesson 2  
Year 10 arrive at (back gate) at 10:10 and go straight to form  
Year 11 arrive (back gate) at 10:50 and go to their lesson 3  
Year 12 (back side gate) and 13 (front gate) arrive at 10:30 **IF** they have a lesson 3

## Blue Friday

As part of the National Anti-Bullying Week and to show we stand up to bullying, students took part in 'Blue Friday'. It marked the end of our week long school campaign to raise awareness of the impact of bullying with particular reference to cyber bullying.



## School Fundraising



Thank you to everyone who supported our recent fundraising events in school.

Not only will this enable us to buy some laptops for our students with Special Educational Needs, it also allowed us to spread some Christmas cheer to our wonderful students who could buy Christmas gifts for themselves or a friend; and our older students could treat themselves to a luxury hot chocolate!



Although so many of our fundraising plans are on hold at the moment, [you can still support our fundraising efforts by participating in 'your school lottery'](#). Plus if you sign up before 19th December 2020

you'll automatically be entered into a draw to [win a Nintendo Switch Mega Bundle, here are all the details](#).

Thank you for your support and good luck!

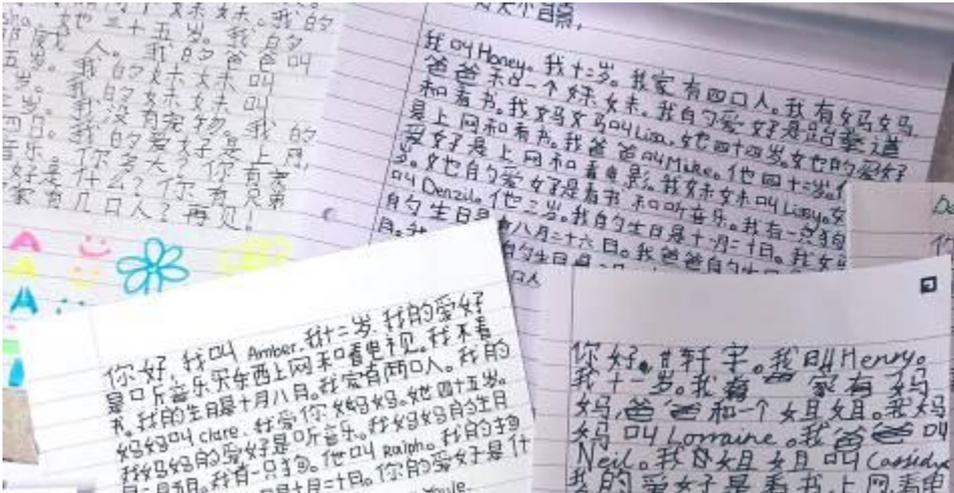


## Christmas Assemblies/Activities

Although students haven't had the usual Christmas assembly in the hall on the final day of term this year, they have all enjoyed a variety of fun and reflective activities in their Form groups including watching our staff perform a Christmas song!

*'Opportunity and achievement for all'*

## We've Gone Global



In a rather lovely way to finish this term we wanted to share that both our Year 7 and Year 8 Mandarin students have written some incredibly neat and lovely letters to some fellow students at two schools in Chengdu, China.

They can't wait to receive letters by return from their new pen pals!

## Staff Joke Competition

As we drew closer to Christmas, things got competitive during our staff joke competition! Some entries were good but a lot of them were bad; here's a flavour of the stiff competition!

Why couldn't Mary and Joseph join their work conference call? Because there was no Zoom at the inn.

Wife: I regret getting you that blender for Christmas. Me: \*sipping toast\* Why?

The worst present I got last Christmas was a deck of sticky playing cards. I found it difficult to deal with.

Why was the snowman embarrassed when he was spotted rummaging through a bag of carrots? He was caught picking his nose.

I bought my son a fridge for Christmas. I can't wait to see his face light up when he opens it!



On that note and finally on behalf of everyone at Horsforth School, I would like to thank you for your support this term, we've received some lovely messages and we really do appreciate it. Our best wishes to you and your family for a safe Christmas and New Year.

Dr P C Bell  
Headteacher

*'Opportunity and achievement for all'*