



Horsforth School

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Our Ref: PCB/TRH

3rd December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope you, your family and friends are safe and well. I apologise that my letter is early this week but I wanted to share with you our severe weather procedures and how the bubbles and staggered starts affects them. Snow is currently forecast on Friday so I wanted to ensure that I give you prior warning of what could happen in different scenarios.

These procedures will remain in place for as long as we are still using the bubbles and staggered start and end times.

Severe weather (snow)

We have well established procedures for severe weather disruption and if heavy snow falls overnight we will do one of four things:

1. Open as normal as we are confident the site will be safe and staff can get in safely.
2. A short delay (1 lesson) to allow ploughs and gritters to work so staff can drive in safely and students can move around the paths safely
3. A longer delay (2 lessons) to allow the site to be made safe for students and ploughs and gritters to work so that staff can drive in safely.
4. Shut the school for the day and set remote learning for students.

Due to the bubble entry and exit stagger it will be a little different this year if we need to do a delayed start. When we do a delayed start, it is to ensure that we can make our site safe for students and that our staff can drive in safely after the ploughs or gritters have been active and the delay will be as follows if we do.

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

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Long 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

All students should arrive through their normal entrance.

We always aim to open if at all possible. Students have lost so much time in school due to lockdown so we will endeavour to do a delayed start if the snow is significant. We will notify you by:

- Text
- Email
- Our school website
- Leeds City Council School Closures section: <https://www.leeds.gov.uk/schools-and-education/school-closures>

If you do not hear from us then we will be open as normal.

If we do close for the full day then remote learning will be set and students will be expected to go onto the remote learning tab on our website and their Google Classrooms and complete all the work set for them.

Government guidance to parents

The Government has updated their guidance for parents as we have moved out of a National Lockdown which can be found here:

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?utm_source=1%20December%202020%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19

2021 Examinations

The Government has announced the plans for exams for Year 11 and 13 students in 2021. In “recognition of the challenges faced by students this year”, and on top of the three-week delay in exams, the government will:

1. Allow more generous grading – which will be “in line with national outcomes from 2020, so students this year are not disadvantaged”
2. Under this system, every subject will “receive the same level of generosity so that the approach doesn’t advantage some students over others depending on their subject choice”
3. Give students advance notice of some topics covered in GCSE, AS and A-levels to focus revision (no further details of which topics, or in which exams)
4. Allow exam aids, such as formula sheets, in “some exams” to give students “more confidence and reducing the amount of information they need to memorise”

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5. Additional exams as a second chance for students to sit a paper if they miss the main exam because of illness or self-isolation
6. In “extreme cases” where a student has a “legitimate reason to miss all their papers”, then a “validated teacher informed assessment” can be used (but only “once all chances to sit an exam have passed”)
7. A new expert group to look at “differential learning and monitor the variation in the impact of the pandemic on students across the country” (but regional grading has been ruled out as it’s unfair)
8. Students taking vocational and technical qualifications will see “some adaptations to ensure parity”
9. Mrs Comiskey and Mrs Wright will send a full letter to Years 11 and 13 respectively when we have greater detail.

School Food and Present Bank

I wrote about Horsforth School *Food Bank* initiative and Horsforth School *Present Bank* initiative in our last two letters and thank you for all parcels and food donations so far. Next week will be the last week before we begin to allocate and distribute so if you would like to contribute please send in with your son or daughter next week.

Last day arrangements

As we shared with you last year the final day of term on the 18th of December will be an early finish to allow time in tutor groups to come together, celebrate and reflect so far.

Please see below the school closure time for each year group for the 18th December only:

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

All students should arrive at their usual time and via their usual entrance. We will send a letter with full details next week.

Our remote training day was highly productive and whilst it is always better to do these sessions in person the training was focussed and gave our subject departments time to take on board new strategies, renew assessments and focus on improving our already excellent curriculum.

Thank you for your continued support, positive messages and understanding.

Yours faithfully

Dr P Bell
Headteacher

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