



## Horsforth School

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Headteacher: Dr P C Bell

Our Ref: PCB/TRH

12<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear Parent/Career,

As we break up for ½ term I wish you all a wonderful rest (if you get one) and that we receive good news on vaccines, cases and the reopening of schools. I am increasingly grateful to serve such a positive and resilient community so I want to thank you all for your ongoing support, your messages and I look forward to welcoming our wonderful students back when we are able.

### **Just Giving Fundraiser – Help Horsforth School Raise Money to Buy Laptops to Support our Students' Online Learning**

As you will no doubt be aware from current media coverage, many students are struggling with online learning due to a lack of IT equipment at home.

Whilst School has been able to provide many disadvantaged students with laptops during this pandemic, some of our families still have to share IT equipment at home which is impacting on students' learning. We would like to support our students' online learning and ensure they don't fall behind by providing them with a laptop but to achieve this we need to raise additional funds. We are appealing to you for your help – if you are able to donate money towards this campaign we would be very grateful – all donations, no matter what size, really are invaluable. Please click the link below to visit our JustGiving page to make a donation.

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/horsforthschoollaptops>

### **Scientific advice on school opening**

I have, since this all began, been trying to gather as much reliable information as possible regarding COVID so I can make as informed decisions as possible. The British Medical Journal have done a brilliant series of webinars that I have been attending and they have summarised the scientific evidence from studies around the world linked to student and staff safety (the most important thing), community transmission and how countries worldwide have adapted. I have found it extremely useful and whilst it is long (2 hours) anyone with a scientific background or sufficient interest may find this useful:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OOpH9mbiGnQ&safe=active>

### **Lateral Flow Testing**

To date we have carried out 424 lateral flow tests in our testing site and I would like to thank parent volunteers, Lucy, Eunice, Vicky, Catherine, Janet, Rachel and Deborah, who have undertaken training with us this week in preparation for mass testing of all students. If you are interested in volunteering, please email [info@horsforthschool.org](mailto:info@horsforthschool.org) with your details and availability.

*'Opportunity and achievement for all'*

## **Year 8 into 9 options**

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I hope that all parents and students in Year 8 have received the options information email, which was sent on Monday February 1st. Please note that whilst the deadline for choices is not until Friday 22nd February, we recommend that you check that you can log on to Options Online well in advance of this date, e-mailing [parentlogons@horsforthschool.org](mailto:parentlogons@horsforthschool.org) if you experience technical difficulties.

### **Horsforth Young Musician of the Year**

Horsforth Schools Young Musician of the Year 2021 has gone online! Congratulations to all who took part, and especially to our finalists!

If you have time and would like to listen to the amazing talents we have at Horsforth go to the link and you will be able to hear the incredible performances of all the winners of the seven categories.

<https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLRVMVSmz4M2RPDZEsXuWmfvkNj6zRyf4i>

It's a wonderful, uplifting and inspirational set of performances. Thank you to everyone who took part, Mrs Hastings for supporting the competition and especially Mrs Cairns for leading, setting everything up and the fantastic production.

### **Student rewards**

We are sending home 548 certificates over the next week to recognise the exceptional efforts of students during remote learning. Much is made of the impact of lockdown on children in the media and that cannot be underestimated. We must also acknowledge that the vast majority of students are coping well, still making good progress and we want to recognise the exceptional efforts, achievement and progress of those students going above and beyond. Even if a certificate does not come through it doesn't mean a student isn't doing extremely well so if your son or daughter is doing everything right please pass on my praise and thanks.

Thank you for your ongoing support, I hope you have a great break and that on our return I am able to update you on our opening plans, how students will be graded and future plans for September.

Take care, stay safe and best wishes.

Yours faithfully

Dr P Bell  
Headteacher

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