



## Horsforth School

Lee Lane East Horsforth

Leeds LS18 5RF

Tel: 0113 226 5454

Fax: 0113 226 5401

Email: [info@horsforthschool.org](mailto:info@horsforthschool.org)

Website: [www.horsforthschool.org](http://www.horsforthschool.org)

Headteacher: Dr P C Bell

Our Ref: PCB/TRH

15<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you and your family are all safe and well during this challenging time. Whilst we are open to children of Key Workers and vulnerable students (snow permitting) the school is again a quiet place and we do miss having our wonderful students. Our fingers are all crossed the national vaccination programme proceeds well so we can welcome our students back as soon as it's safe.

There are a few things I would like to update you on as we have made progress in a few key areas and a reminder to pass on to students please.

### **Student Emails and Student Support**

Please do ask your child to check their school email accounts and to read their Horsforth school email address emails. This is how subject staff and our pastoral staff will communicate with your child. We will be sending lockdown support tips to them via this email.

Already this week, we have sent all students tips for 'keeping positive' and supporting mental health to their school email. Please do check they have seen this and encourage them to try some of the strategies if they are struggling with low mood, stress or just have general worries.

As always, do contact our pastoral team at [pastoralhub@horsforthschool.org](mailto:pastoralhub@horsforthschool.org) if you have any concerns for your child.

### **Student Rewards**

I am pleased to report that subject staff have awarded over 500 bonus credits this week for exceptional performance or effort during the live lessons. We hope the credit system continues to motivate and enthuse our students during this period.

### **Lateral Flow testing**

We have made good progress and begun testing staff, on a routine basis, who are coming onto the school site. I have enclosed some photos (below) of the testing setup (15 booths) in our sports hall to give you an idea of how we have prepared.

*'Opportunity and achievement for all'*



Lateral Flow tests are different to the PCR tests that take 24 hours and are usually conducted at drive throughs as these tests detect fragments of the virus's genetic material whilst the lateral flow tests detect the spikes on the surface of the virus. I have been assured these tests still detect the new variant of COVID.

This means that the rapid tests, from the information the NHS has given me, are less sensitive than the PCR tests. The numbers I have been given are that the rapid tests are about 77% as sensitive as the PCR tests.

No member of staff or student would be required to take the test and we would ask for full consent.

I hope that by training staff, preparing our site and getting efficient and reliable processes ready now we will make our current provision as safe as possible and be ready when we are able to open again.

### **Remote Learning**

I would like to keep improving our remote learning offer and would like to hear your feedback on how it is going for your child since the January 4th return. I would appreciate it if you could spend a few minutes completing the following survey by clicking the link below:

<https://forms.gle/gTjH3vSg4iX4uEfr6>

### **National Literacy Trust Resources**

I would like to point you and your family to some resources, activities and support to help improve your son/daughter's language, literacy and communication skills whilst learning from home. There are some really fun and engaging ways to encourage and promote reading, writing, speaking and listening including; book clubs, reading lists, weekly challenges and competitions. Best of all - it's free to use. Links are below to direct you to these resources;

#### **Year 7**

<https://wordsforlife.org.uk/activities/filter/?age=9-12>

#### **Year 8+**

[https://wordsforlife.org.uk/zone-in/?mc\\_cid=13b28a87e9&mc\\_eid=fc3e3a7912](https://wordsforlife.org.uk/zone-in/?mc_cid=13b28a87e9&mc_eid=fc3e3a7912)

### **Parent Trustee**

Thank you to everyone who expressed an interest in the vacancy. Trustees make a real contribution to the life and work of the School. I am delighted to announce that Ian Dixon is duly appointed to the Board of Trustees and joins Sam Lightfoot as the second Parent Trustee on the Board.

### **Exams**

There are quite a few announcements in the media but no method or principles have been set out for the setting of grades this year. I will update you as soon as I have firm details.

*'Opportunity and achievement for all'*

### **Horsforth Students Competing in British Physics Olympiad**

Congratulations to Year 13 students, Thomas, Lucas, Tommy and Morgan for their excellent work when competing in the British Physics Olympiad. This is an extremely challenging competition, designed to thoroughly test problem solving skills and challenge students beyond the scope of the A Level specification. This year 1,606 students from 270 schools participated from the UK, as well as some from overseas, and Thomas, Lucas, Morgan and Tommy all performed admirably in what was a tremendously challenging paper. Special commendation must go to Thomas, who achieved the Gold Standard and is in contention to be selected for round 2 of the competition.

As always, thank you for your support, positivity and calm resilience. Your messages of support and praise of remote learning have been much appreciated and give staff a real boost.

I hope you are untouched by COVID, that lockdown is not too burdensome and that we receive further good news around the vaccine programme soon.

Yours faithfully

Dr P Bell  
Headteacher