



Horsforth School

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Headteacher: Dr P C Bell

Our Ref: PCB/TRH

23rd July 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope this letter finds you and your loved ones safe and well. Thank you for your continued support and understanding as we reach the end of term.

I apologise if this letter is long, we have tried to keep to the key information.

Welcome to parents of our new Year 7's.

I would like to start by welcoming our new Horsforth parents to the weekly communication which is also the last one of the year. I am sharing some general information regarding how the school will re-open in September so hopefully this will be useful.

Year 8 and 9 form group changes

Current years 7 and 8 parents have already been notified separately about the change to form groups for next year. Parents should receive a separate email in due course about which form their child will be in as of September. We do need parents to speak with their child about this so they know which form to go to on the first day back. The changes will help students form relationships outside of the bubbles they have been in all year and I am sure you agree that this is very much needed for their personal development. The change is also necessary as we are reducing the number of tutor groups in both years.

Year 11 form group changes

As in previous years, students going into Year 11 are regrouped into English, Maths and Science forms with subject specialist form tutors to best support them with their academic progress throughout Year 11. These have been shared with students this week and further information can be found in the 'Getting Ready for Year 11' presentation from last week.

Communication during the summer break

I will only write to you over the summer if something changes or I need to clarify a previous message. We will send emails inviting students to their first lateral flow test during the break and I will send a main letter in the week beginning 16th August with more detail on our September opening and some key reminders.

All of the information we are sharing is dependent on the national and local rules remaining the same, Public Health England advice and the guidance from the Department for Education not changing. If anything does change I will share it as soon as I am able.

If you contact the school during the break then please be aware that the phone lines and emails will not be monitored throughout the holiday with the exception of grading@horsforthschool.org. Please be assured that staff will respond as soon as possible at the beginning of September.

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- Pastoral concerns: pastoralhub@horsforthschool.org
- General queries info@horsforthschool.org
- Exams, results and grading grading@horsforthschool.org

Lateral flow testing

You will receive an email inviting your son/daughter to come into school for a Lateral Flow test before they return.

These tests are voluntary and no students will not be allowed to return if they do not wish to take the tests but I am asking for your support to allow this to happen. Whilst the risks of COVID are significantly lessened and students usually experience mild or no symptoms contact tracing has had a significant impact on education and this is a major way to prevent more lost learning.

The days when this will happen are below:

- Thursday 2nd September: Years 7, 11, 12 and 13
- Friday 3rd September: Years 8, 9 and 10

If you are unable to make these appointments we will endeavour to ensure your son/daughter can be tested as soon as possible. Our experience of doing this in March means we hope to complete these tests in the first week back and classes will be brought down after they have returned for their second test.

If you wish to get extra Lateral Flow tests for your family over the break they can be ordered from the NHS: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing/regular-rapid-coronavirus-tests-if-you-do-not-have-symptoms/>

The start of term

After students have received one negative result in our lateral flow testing site, the start of term for all year groups will be **Monday 6th September**. The day will start at 8:25am with Tutor Time for all students in their form rooms. We will insist students arrive on site by **8:20**. Years 7 to 11 will have a full day and finish at the usual time of 2.50pm. Year 12 will stay to enrol through the day and then leave the site, and Year 13 will leave following the end of their tutor time at 9.50am.

Students should enter through the correct gate and their assigned year group entrance as follows:

Year group	Gate	Entrance
7	Front	Student entrance
8	Back	DS2 doors
9	Front	E6 entrance
10	Back	SC6 doors
11	Back	PE doors
12 and 13	Front	Main entrance

The timings of the day in tabular format are:

	Years 7, 9, 11
08:20	Arrive in school
8:25 - 8:50	Tutor time
8:50 - 9:50	Lesson 1
9:50 - 10:50	Lesson 2
10:50 - 11:10	BREAK
11:10 -12:10	Lesson 3
12:10 - 12:50	LUNCH
12:50 - 1:50	Lesson 4
1:50 - 2:50	Lesson 5

	Years 8, 10, 12, 13
08:20	Arrive in school
8:25 - 8:50	Tutor time
8:50 - 9:50	Lesson 1
9:50 - 10:50	Lesson 2
10:50 - 11:10	BREAK
11:10 -12:10	Lesson 3
12:10 - 1:10	Lesson 4
1:10-1:50	LUNCH
1:50 - 2:50	Lesson 5

We will have contingency plans in place so we can reintroduce bubbles and staggers as needed.

Summer reads

Reading can be a great way of relieving stress, it really supports learning and development and studies have shown a high reading age is associated with better exam results. So if you want to bask in the sun with a book, curl up on the sofa reading or escape into a story on the bus here are some of our suggested summer reads <https://www.horsforthschool.org/school/summer-2021-recommended-reads/>

Rewards days

Whilst we have not been able to do our usual rewards days it has been wonderful to see our students receive recognition for all their hard work and resilience this year. The days were enjoyed by our students and staff alike and it was really lovely to see our young people play, relax, laugh and have fun! They thoroughly deserved it. I would like to say well done to any students who did qualify but could not be there because they were isolating. It's a desperately unlucky time to be isolating and I hope next year we will see them enjoying the day in full. They will be compensated next year.

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I have included a few images of these fantastic days showing the achievement assemblies below:



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Mental Health and Wellbeing school holiday support

For the Summer break, please do make use of the following agencies and support helplines and websites:

Horsforth Children's Services: based at the Brownlee Stone Centre, Town Street, Horsforth.

Please call the team on 0113 336 7724. Follow Facebook 'Horsforth Children's Service' for regular updates. They offer a range of services, including family support, parent advice and signposting, Emotional wellbeing support and advice for children, young people and adults and food bank vouchers.

Mental Health Support, Information and Advice for Adults and Parents/Carers:

Key websites to access:

www.leedsmind.org.uk

www.mindmate.co.uk

Mental Health Support for Children and Young people:

www.mindmate.org

Teen Connect (13-18 years)

Teen Connect is a helpline for Leeds based 13-18 year olds who are in crisis.

Open 6 pm – 2 am every night of the year. Call, [go online](#) or send a text **0771 566 1559** .

Kooth online counselling and emotional wellbeing service

Kooth online counselling is a free, safe and anonymous service for 10-18 year olds where young people can chat 1-2-1 with counsellors, access self-help articles 24/7 and connect with peers through live moderated forums. www.kooth.com.

Updated calendar dates

As a result of the Queen's Jubilee bank holiday landing in the school holidays, Leeds City Council and all academies need to allocate another day out of school to honour this occasion. We are planning to place this additional bank holiday later in the summer term, in order to avoid GCSE and A level exams, and will be closing the school for the day on Monday 4 July 2022. The term dates document has been updated to reflect this and can be found attached to this email.

I always feel honored, lucky and blessed to be the Headteacher of Horsforth School. I said this to someone recently and they said "even this year?".

Especially this year.

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I have a great staff, supportive community and wonderful students. It has been a tough year but your support has meant a huge amount. Your messages of encouragement and thanks have been shared with staff so even if I have not been able to reply to everyone they have made a real difference and helped the whole staff keep going.

We have missed every student who has isolated or not been able to come in but I sincerely hope next academic year is different and I look forward to hitting the ground running and that school life will be more normal.

We, as a school, have learned much this year and COVID has brought some changes that we will keep. Our use of technology to support learning has really improved, we are keeping the staggered lunch so students can get better access to catering and social spaces and we will be keeping Year groups together for social times so we can reduce any possible impact of COVID coming into the school. Our tutor times will also be moved to the beginning of the day so we can ensure students are in the best place to start learning lesson one.

A final thank you to you all. I am blessed to be the Head of a school like this that serves a community like Horsforth. I hope you have a wonderful, well earned break.

Take care, stay safe and best wishes.

Yours faithfully

Dr P Bell
Headteacher

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