



Horsforth School

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Our Ref: PCB/TRH/JFI

17th September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope this letter finds you and your loved ones safe and well. Our first two weeks have gone smoothly, our new Year 7 students are finding their way around the building more and the climate for learning around the school has been excellent! It's great to see such focus in learning around the school.

Lateral Flow Tests

I would like to thank you for your support in continuing to perform lateral flow tests at home. This is a vital part of reducing transmission. On Sunday night this week a number of students did test positive and as a result did not come into school, preventing the spread of COVID which caused so much lost learning last year.

The link to reporting results to the NHS is here: <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>. The link to report results to us is here (**please also call the school if you test positive**):

<https://forms.gle/RKzCqrFhzDS4CFK87>

Attendance and Isolation

Attendance at school is vital but no one should attend if they show any of the following symptoms:

- Loss of taste or smell
- Persistent cough
- Fever/high temperature

Many young people have no or mild symptoms so please continue to self-test at home as this is a vital part of our efforts to stop transmission of COVID.

If your son/daughter begins to show classic cold symptoms such as a runny nose and headache I would strongly advise doing a lateral flow test just to be safe.

Contingency Planning

Linked to the fact that a number of students tested positive this week we will enact further measures to prevent transmission if cases rise.

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The key method of transmission is droplets from unprotected, face to face conversations. We will bring back compulsory masks in corridors and communal areas as a key measure if we have an outbreak of cases linked to droplet (face to face conversations) transmission in school.

I will update you in a separate letter if we have an outbreak in school and whether we will take further measures such as compulsory masks. We will always make these decisions in consultation with the Department for Education, Public Health England and Leeds City Council.

Early Finish

Thursday 30th September 2021 is our annual **Open Evening** when Year 6 Parents/Carers and students visit the School. In order to prepare for this event, **the School will close early for students at 12:30pm**. This is on the School calendar. Your son/daughter may be invited to return in the evening to support our Open Evening activities. If this is the case, your child will be given a separate letter from the relevant Curriculum Leader.

If you wish your child to have lunch on that day, sandwiches and full lunch items will be available at break. Free School Meal students will be able to pick up a full sandwich bag deal or hot lunch at break.

Extra-Curricular Sport Program

This week saw the return of our full extra-curricular sport program and I'd like to thank all staff and students who took part in the range of different activities on offer after school hours. A reminder that if students still wish to take part they are more than welcome to do so and if so, they simply turn up to the PE changing rooms after school with their PE kit, ready to start at 3pm. There is no need to sign up before-hand. All clubs should finish at 4pm and it is the responsibility of the student to inform you that they are taking part. Details of the days and times of clubs will shortly be available to view on the school website.

In the coming weeks we are also pleased to announce that we will be starting our fixtures program, where some students will have the opportunity to represent our school teams against other local secondary schools. A letter will be sent out detailing the procedure on this so you are fully aware. If you have any queries or questions, please do ask your child's PE teacher in the first instance, or get in touch through the school email.

Super - Curricular Timetable 2021-22:

In addition to the excellent sport programme that we run in school, we have always been extremely proud of the extensive and varied super-curricular activities that have been on offer to our students in the past, including something for everyone, from music to robotics, swimming to drama. We are very pleased to be able to start offering these additional activities again this year and hope that our students take every opportunity to get involved with as many of the wide variety of activities on offer to them as they can. Final touches are currently being added to the programme and the full details will be shared with both students and parents/carers next week (please look out for an additional email about this). Students can also find out more about what is on offer by visiting the Super-curricular noticeboard in the main corridor in school.

Key Dates Booklet

Please find attached to this email a copy of both the main school (Y7-11) and sixth form key dates documents for 2021-22 to help you with planning for the academic year. This booklet includes all key dates

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such as parents' evenings but does not contain the details of any additional trips or visits that may be running this year - full details of these can be found on the calendar on our school website.

Parent App

I am pleased to say that the homework module on the SIMs parent app is now live, so within 24 hours you should be able to see details of all homework set through the app. This includes a brief description and also when the homework is due. Students will still write a full description in their planner.

All parents of new Year 7 students will receive an email with activation details in the next few weeks. Existing parents who wish to activate the app can email parentlogons@horsforthschool.org and details will be re-sent.

Our other app, Schoolcomms, does not require an activation code and this can be downloaded and set up at any time. This is the easiest way to receive important communications from the school. Further details can be found on our [website](#).

It's been great to see so many students enjoying the after-school activities, getting involved and enjoying the extra-curricular part of school that is so important. Whilst COVID continues Lateral Flow testing has become more accurate and useful so our school has been able to become more like normal. We still have social time bubbles but our learning bubbles have gone which means we can offer the full range of activities and access to specialist areas.

I know you may be concerned around positive cases but the risks of COVID are vanishingly small for students and the vast majority of my staff have been double jabbed. We are not complacent and our measures continue to be effective. My main concern is the loss of learning students face if they need to isolate for 10 days.

Thank you for your patience, understanding and support.

Take care, stay safe and best wishes.

Yours faithfully

Dr P Bell
Headteacher