



## 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

24<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope this letter finds you and your loved ones safe and well.

The return to masks in corridors and communal areas has gone incredibly smoothly, thank you so much for your support! It is a vital measure to stop droplet transmission and has had an impact already. Students have been, by and large, brilliant at remembering masks which is a massive help.

I have a few updates and, I apologise, some repeated items as they are so important.

### **School Production & Extra-Curricular Offer**

Rehearsals for our new school production of HOOK have started! Cast members can find out details about rehearsals via the google classroom. If students need any more information they can speak to a member of the drama department.

Our extra-curricular offer is up and running so please encourage your son/daughter to consider attending a club, team or event. It is great to be able to do this again and to see students enjoying the wider part of school life.

### **Lateral Flow Tests**

Thank you so much for your support in continuing to perform lateral flow tests at home. We have had a number of students test positive on Lateral Flow Tests on a Sunday night again which means they do not come into school.

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

*'Opportunity and achievement for all'*

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.

If your son/ daughter has to isolate they can access our remote learning website via the main school website and we have produced a parents' guide to remote learning short video which can be viewed by clicking this [LINK](#).

### **COVID 19 Vaccinations**

The Government has announced that all students aged 12-15 will be offered a single dose of the Pfizer vaccine (all young people aged 16-17 have been offered their first dose).

Whilst students whose parents have given their consent will be vaccinated in school the consent, administration and delivery of the vaccines will be conducted by the NHS through the school age immunisation service. The Government has produced information for parents and young people which can be found here.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-vaccination-resources-for-schools/covid-19-vaccination-programme-for-young-people-guidance-for-parents>

The vaccines will be delivered in a similar way to other vaccines conducted in school (such as HPV, flu etc.) and I realise that this could be controversial in some households.

Please be assured no students will be vaccinated without consent.

### **The Character Program**



We are very pleased to announce that we are launching our first character builder next week with students in Years 7-9. Students will be automatically gaining their 'Respect badges'. Our first character builder is 'Respect'.

*'Opportunity and achievement for all'*

All during this half term students have been learning about the theme of Respect in assemblies and through tutor activities.

Students get to wear their badge all year and can retain it, so long as they are respectful citizens of our school community and do not deliberately show disrespect towards peers or staff. Students will have to forfeit the right to wear the badge if this is the case.

Each half term, for each of the 6-character builders, there are 6 badges to be earned. We sincerely hope that this motivates and encourages our students to achieve, learn, grow and develop. Students will be given their badges on Wednesday 29th September and these can be worn on the top of the tie (or jumper).

I personally look forward to seeing lower school students wearing their badges with pride!



### **Basic reminders and routines:**

#### **Settling- In**

Students in all year groups have now experienced their full two-week timetable and have had three full weeks in school, getting to know their way around as well as the new routines at break and lunch. We have been impressed with how quickly students have adapted and found their way around again. New Year 7 students have settled really well and it was lovely to see so many new parents at our information evening last week.

#### **Consequences and Detentions:**

Given that we will be entering our fourth week back on site, the amnesty on late detentions and forgotten equipment is now over: all our usual policies will resume. Please therefore ensure your child is on time to school, they have their planner and correct books for the day, that they have completed their homework and know to turn their phones off at the school gate. For students who fail to meet our expectations, after school detentions are held every Tuesday and Thursday after school. You will be notified of this in their planner, so do ensure you check this regularly and sign it. Detentions are non-negotiable.

#### **Lunches**

Please do check that your child has a lunch card and that there is money on this, or send them with cash to top up their card at the machines on site. Lost cards can be replaced at the finance office, your child should order one at the office and bring £5. Students can only go overdrawn by a set amount, and then they will be refused service. Remember you can check the balance of their cards on Parent Pay.

#### **Homework**

*'Opportunity and achievement for all'*

Homework is being set by teachers on the SIMs parent app, so please look at your App if you want to check and monitor homework. We really do encourage this.

### **Uniform**

On the whole our students look very smart and we are very proud of their uniform and how they present. They represent us well and embody our high standards. Students have been praised in attendance.

Please do be aware that it is a basic rule that we do not allow hair that is shaven to the scalp or lower than a grade 1 and we only allow one ear piercing in the lower lobe of the ear. Our uniform policy has not changed. For health and safety reasons we do not allow other piercings in the ear, on the face or body. Students will be asked to remove these and cannot enter lessons with these. I am sure you would rather we focus our energies on teaching and learning rather than on students who cannot meet basic uniform requirements. We simply ask that parents support this policy and do not allow extra piercings or send their children with incorrect hairstyles.

### **Early Finish Reminder for Thursday 30th September**

Our annual **Open Evening** for Year 6 Parents/Carers and students takes place on Thursday 30th. 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 a hot lunch at break.

### **Expansion update**

Morgan Sindall have made excellent progress on our new building and sporting facilities and are 2 weeks ahead of schedule. We are aiming for an Easter handover so we can get setup and run through any teething issues for the September opening in 2022.

Linked to this, at Leeds City Councils request we will be admitting 285 students into Year 7 in September 2022 rather than the usual 225. This will mean that all students in our catchment should be offered a place if first preference and the application is submitted on time.

We have had two, in person, parent information events which have gone ahead extremely smoothly and with COVID restrictions in place. We look forward to continuing with these if restrictions allow. It has been great to see you in person if you could make it to the Year 7 and 11 information sessions and I hope they were useful.

At the end of our third week of term I have been walking the building regularly and monitoring the climate for learning which continues to be excellent, our COVID measures are being supported and student effort has really impressed me. There has been a lovely atmosphere and I look forward to this continuing throughout the year.

Thank you for your patience, understanding and support.

*'Opportunity and achievement for all'*

Take care, stay safe and best wishes.

Yours faithfully

Dr P Bell  
Headteacher