



Horsforth School

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Headteacher: Dr P C Bell

Our Ref: PCB/TRH/JFI

1st October 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

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

It was great to welcome current and future parents to our altered open evening last night. Whilst it was not a normal open evening due to masks, enhanced hygiene, booking and one-way systems it was fantastic to welcome potential future students and their parents through our doors again.

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

DEAR (Drop Everything and Read)

The English department at Horsforth School are passionate about reading and we strive to spread this love across students in the school. Reading forms a key part of our English lessons but we also lend all students in Years 7-10 a DEAR book every term or half term. Known as Drop Everything and Read, these are carefully chosen books that we hope students will enjoy and will enlighten their minds. We know that students who read widely grow up to have improved cognitive skills and that reading can help you relax and keep calm. Students' reading culminates in a book club lesson where they discuss the book in class with their teacher and their peers. We would love it if you could perhaps read the book with them, or discuss the book with them at home. We are really excited about the books we have chosen and what they teach us about life and the times we live in.

There are also lots more books recommended on our website here:

<https://www.horsforthschool.org/school/summer-2021-recommended-reads/>

Lost property

We have quite a lot of lost property in School, so for the next two weeks students will be able to come to the hall after school when they will be able to search and collect items they may have lost.

We cannot allow parents to search due to COVID and safeguarding so please let your son/daughter know.

Lockers

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Due to the pandemic we had to suspend the use of lockers in School but we are now in a position where we would like students to be able to use them again. We would however, like to take this opportunity to re-allocate lockers amongst students and, as much as possible, ensure that year groups have lockers in the same areas of the school building.

Therefore, we would ask that all students in Years 9, 10 and 11 who have previously rented a locker from School, remove items from their lockers and their padlocks by Friday 8th October 3pm. We will remind students of this in form time and assemblies.

The site team will cut off padlocks week commencing 11th October and clear any items from the lockers. Please note that we will not be able to reimburse students for any padlocks that have been cut off and we do not hold spare keys for lockers.

We will write to all students to inform them of their new locker number and location as soon as the above work has taken place.

If your son/daughter has not previously rented a locker from School but would like to do so then please email info@horsforthschool.org to request to be put on the waiting list and we will forward payment details in due course.

The (non-refundable) rental cost for a locker is £3 per academic year. Students can also purchase padlocks from School for £4 (the padlocks have 3 keys so spares can be kept at home). They can bring their own padlock from home if preferred.

Lockers for Years 7 and 8 will be allocated in due course and details of how to rent one will follow shortly. Please also note that due to space constraints we do not have enough lockers for every student in School and they are allocated on a first come, first serve basis.

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/RKzCgrFhzDS4CFK87>

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

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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](#).

Cadets (CCF) Update

Thank you to everyone who has applied for a place in cadets; we are delighted that we have had a huge response to this offer.

We would like all pupils who have already submitted an application to attend a taster session after school on Wednesday 13th October. The session will run from 1500 until 1600. Pupils should meet 2LT Allison by the entrance to PE. Those unable to attend must contact 2LT Allison prior to the session.

We will finalise and confirm who has been successful in gaining a place in CCF the week before the October half term.

Please see below images taken back in July at the CCF Camp trip to the Yorkshire Dales. The students took part in canoeing, climbing and caving.



Well done to all students taking part in extra-curricular activities. It is great to see the school buzzing again after school and these opportunities are so important for our students' wider development.

Thank you for your continued messages of support and sharing student successes from outside school. Nothing raises staff spirits more than the positive emails and phone calls.

Thank you for your patience, understanding and support.

Take care, stay safe and best wishes.

Yours faithfully

Dr P Bell
Headteacher

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