



Horsforth School

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Headteacher: Dr P C Bell

Our Ref: PCB/TRH

22nd October 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

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

I know the news regarding COVID cases nationally and in Secondary schools is going in the wrong direction but cases in school are very low, staff absence is at a very similar level to this time of year usually, and the picture is generally positive. The vaccination programme went well last Friday and as a result we are well set up for the start of the next half term.

I have a few updates, and as always, some reminders (apologies for repetition).

Face masks

As cases of COVID continue to rise, especially amongst secondary school age children and considering the significant impact mask wearing in corridors and communal areas has had on reducing case numbers in school I have made the decision to continue this into the November term.

I do understand that wearing masks is not ideal but since we have returned to this we have had few cases in school. The risks of COVID remain lost learning, illness for students and possible serious illness for some students and staff. The benefit of mask wearing in reducing transmission outweighs the discomfort that some students may experience during the short time they are to be worn.

We will monitor this carefully over the coming weeks but it is worth considering that respiratory infections traditionally increase in the coming term.

Lateral Flow Tests

Thank you so much for your support in continuing to perform lateral flow tests at home. Please continue to do this over ½ term and especially the night before we return on the 1st.

The link to reporting results to the NHS is here: <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid-19-result>. The link to report results to us is here **(please also call the school if you test positive)**:
<https://forms.gle/RKzCqrFhzDS4CFK87>

Sixth Form Open Evening: Thursday 11th November 5.30 - 8.00pm

'Opportunity and achievement for all'

We are delighted to have the opportunity to invite our current Year 11 students and parents to our Sixth Form Open Evening on Thursday 11th November. The school will be open from 5.30pm to 8.00pm. There will be talks held about 'Joining our Sixth Form' which will take place at 5.30pm, 6.30pm and 7.30pm in the school hall and these must be booked in advance (using the links on the school website or in the letter that will be sent out today). There will also be subject based talks with Curriculum Leaders which will last for 10 minutes each and will be held in classrooms around the school, on a rolling programme throughout the night. There will also be an opportunity to ask our student ambassadors questions and meet the Sixth Form Team as well as find out about Sixth Form life in the school Library. In order to keep our school community and visitors safe, we need to limit the number of people in rooms and operate pre-booking for the 'Joining our Sixth Form' talks in our Hall. We insist that only one parent attends with one Year 11 student. Please wear a mask and make use of the sanitising stations throughout school.

Sports and Fixtures

Year 7 boys football:

Beat Ilkley 2-0

Beat Abbey Grange 5-0

Player of the tournament TBC

Year 8 girls netball:

Beat Brigshaw 7-6

Player of the match Emily in Year 8

Year 7 girls football:

Beat Allerton High 1-0

Beat Leeds West 1-0

Drew with Ralph Thoresby 0-0

Beat Boston Spa 1-0

Player of the tournament Iris in Year 7

Year 11 boys rugby:

Lost to Roundhay 7 – 24

Players of the match – Tom and Olly in Year 11

Combined Cadet Force (CCF)

Thanks to everyone who expressed an interest in joining the Combined Cadet Force, we are delighted with the response from students. Students who have been offered a place have been notified via their school email addresses. CCF is now closed to new entrants, as we are fully subscribed, until further notice.

If you were unable to gain a place then please visit <https://armycadets.com/find-a-detachment/> to help find a local Army Cadet Force detachment. Please note that students need to be 13 years old (Year 8 or above with CCF) and that most detachments have waiting lists.

All cadets will be expected to attend from the 4th November, unless they have been in touch with 2LT Allison to be excused.

'Opportunity and achievement for all'

Life in The Eyes of a Young Person

Horsforth Children's Services are offering a free course called "Life in the Eyes of a Young Person" and it is for parents/carers of young people from 11 yrs old and upwards.

The course provides the skills and tools to enable parents to provide practical and emotional support for their teenagers to help them thrive and build the skills they need for adulthood.

The course focuses on:

- Building and developing positive relationships
- How to manage difficult situations
- New ways to communicate with your teenager
- How you can communicate more effectively using a problem solving approach

It also provides an opportunity to talk to other parents about their experiences.

The course will run in person on Tuesday evenings from 6pm to 7.30pm on 2nd, 9th and 16th November 2021 at Horsforth School.

To book a place on the course, please call 0113 3367724 or email info@horsforthchildrensservices.co.uk

Thank you for your continued support, patience and understanding. Whilst we have faced challenges this term you have made meeting these much easier and when I reflect on where we are and what has happened in the term I always feel honored and lucky to be the Headteacher at Horsforth serving our wonderful community.

I hope you and our wonderful students have a restful break and that they are ready and refreshed for our return in November.

Take care, stay safe and best wishes.

Yours faithfully

Dr P Bell
Headteacher

'Opportunity and achievement for all'