



## Horsforth School

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Headteacher: Dr P C Bell

Our Ref: PCB/TRH/JFI

10<sup>th</sup> December 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

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

It has been wonderful to be able to reward our students through the Choc Fest this week. So many of our students show an amazing attitude to their learning, are kind and considerate to each other, throw themselves into extra-curricular activities and show incredible positivity and resilience every day. We are extremely lucky to have such wonderful students and it has been fantastic for them to have this recognised this week.

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

### **Choc Fest and Extended Break time Reward**

All this week we have been celebrating our students' fantastic attitude to learning and behaviour with an extended break and chocolate reward. We have been proudly posting photos of students on Instagram and Facebook all week. If you're not already following us on social media and would like to you can find us on:

Instagram: @horsforthschool, Facebook: @HorsforthSchool, Twitter: @HorsforthSchool



### **Lateral Flow Tests (Home Testing)**

Thank you so much for your support in continuing to perform lateral flow tests at home.

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: <https://forms.gle/RKzCqrFhzDS4CFK87> (please also call or email the school if you test positive).

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## Lateral Flow Device (LFD) testing before return to school in January 2022

We are well on with setting up our onsite lateral flow testing centre in January so we can offer all students who consent a lateral flow test which, if negative, means they can return to face to face teaching.

This is always a logistical challenge and whilst the Government is saying we can 'stagger' or delay the return of students we are keeping this to the absolute minimum.

Students in Years 7, 11 and 13 will be invited in for a test on Tuesday 4th January. They will be able to return to face to face teaching on their usual timetable on Wednesday 5th January.

Years 8, 9, 10 and 12 will be invited in for their test on Wednesday 5th January and they will be able to return to face to face teaching on their usual timetable on Thursday 6th January.

All students will be expected to log on and learn remotely on Tuesday 4th and for Years 8, 9, 10 and 12 Wednesday 5th.

Students will not need to complete the remote learning for the period they will be tested but must complete the remote learning for the period before and the period after.

The remote learning will contain live teaching as per our policy (unless a teacher is ill).

A summary table is below of which Year groups will be tested and how they will be learning:

Year	Tuesday 4th	Wednesday 5th	Thursday 6th
7	Remote + Test	In school	In school
8	Remote	Remote + Test	In school
9	Remote	Remote + Test	In school
10	Remote	Remote + Test	In school
11	Remote + Test	In school	In school
12	Remote	Remote + Test	In school
13	Remote + Test	In school	In school

You will already have received an email informing you of the student's appointment on either Tuesday 4th or Wednesday 5th January 2022. A copy of the letter for each year group can be found in the *Letters Home* section on the school website see links below:

- Year 7: <https://www.horsforthschool.org/school/letters-home-year-7/>  
Year 8: <https://www.horsforthschool.org/school/letters-home-year-8/>  
Year 9: <https://www.horsforthschool.org/school/letters-home-year-9/>  
Year 10: <https://www.horsforthschool.org/school/letters-home-year-10/>  
Year 11: <https://www.horsforthschool.org/school/letters-home-year-11/>

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Sixth Form: <https://www.horsforthschool.org/sixthform/letters-home-sixth-form/>

## Remote Learning

All students have their Google Classroom codes, logins and passwords so please double check, these are issued by the class teacher and are how the learning is set and monitored.

It is absolutely vital that students have these for the first two days of the New Year.

Students who do not have access to a device need to speak to Mr Watkins or if you could email [info@horsforthschool.org](mailto:info@horsforthschool.org) with Remote Learning Device in the subject title.

## SIMS Parent App

Some parents have contacted us to advise that they are having problems logging on to the SIMS Parent App. This has been caused by the software providers moving to a new method of logging onto the app. Users who have previously signed up with Google/Twitter/Facebook and who now attempt to log in with the new SIMS ID are getting error messages. To solve this problem, existing users should continue to log in with their existing Google/Twitter/Facebook login, while new users should request a new activation email from [parentlogons@horsforthschool.org](mailto:parentlogons@horsforthschool.org) which will allow you to use the new SIMS ID. Because of this confusion, some existing users have been locked out of their accounts which is creating a high demand for activation emails. Please bear with us while we manage this change implemented by the software providers. The reason the change has been made is to allow SIMS ID users to reset their own passwords, without the need for future activation emails.

If you have the Parent App installed already and would like to learn more about what it can do, you can watch our video guide here: <https://youtu.be/gFP5uTnb4XI>

## Student Parliament

We have held the first round of committee meetings for School Parliament. All of the students involved were a credit to themselves and made some excellent suggestions to improve the school. These proposals were then discussed at our cabinet meeting, and will be summarised and put to the Senior Leadership Team after Christmas. Below is a photo of our wonderful cabinet members!



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## **Christmas Arrangements**

The last day of this term is Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December for all students and on that day, a series of Christmas Assemblies and activities will take place. **School will close for students after these Assemblies at Approximately 12:25pm.** Free School Meal students will be able to pick up a sandwich at break should they wish to do so.

## **Festive Jumper day**

On the final day of term, we will be allowing students to wear a festive jumper for charity. It will be a £1 donation to wear a festive jumper that day, and all proceeds will go to one of our school charities, Zarach, which supports bed poverty in Leeds.

Students will need to wear their normal uniform, but the jumper can be a Christmas jumper, a winter jumper, plain wool jumper, bright jumper, wooly jumper, slogan jumper etc.

Thank you again for your positive feedback and messages of support. Feedback on the production has been amazing and I fully agree it was an amazing performance from our students. Thank you to Mrs Kendal and all involved.

There will be more information in the coming weeks around the new variant and what it means for us as a school and individually. All I can say is that we are prepared as a school for whatever we will need to do and that myself and all the staff remain committed to doing whatever we can to ensure our students are learning, safe and supported.

School, as always, is a calm, positive and happy place. As we reach the final week of term students and staff remain focused and cheerful. I hope this is how students come home as well!

Take care, stay safe and best wishes.

Yours faithfully

Dr P Bell  
Headteacher