



Horsforth School

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Our Ref: PCB/TRH/JFI

3rd December 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

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

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

New Government Guidance

As you are aware there has been a tightening of guidance due to the new Omicron variant. The key change for schools is that mask wearing is now recommended in corridors and communal areas. We have been doing this for some time now and the students have been wonderful in supporting us in this. It is one of the key reasons we have been successful in reducing the spread of COVID and stopping lost learning.

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

Another key change for schools is that we need to set up our on-site lateral flow testing centre in January and 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 will keep this to the absolute minimum. In September we opened 2 days early to ensure all students could be tested once and, unlike the majority of schools, all students returned on the first day.

We are not able to do that this time so as a result we will focus on testing students on Tuesday the 4th and Wednesday the 5th of January and we will teach remotely.

The current plan is that we will invite students into school for a Lateral Flow Device test and then ask students to return home and complete remote learning. All Years will return to face to face teaching in school on Thursday 7th January. We are looking at how we can return to school sooner and if anything changes, I will update you as soon as possible.

You will shortly receive an email informing you of the student's appointment on either Tuesday 4th or Wednesday 5th January 2022.

'Opportunity and achievement for all'

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.

Christmas Arrangements

The last day of this term is Friday 17th December for all students. 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 use their allowance at break should they wish to do so.

Christmas 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.

Poppy appeal

Thank you to everyone who supported the poppy appeal this year. We raised a total of £208.88 for the Royal British Legion. A special thanks to our ten Year 7 student volunteers who visited form groups to assist with the sales.

School Production of Hook

Our first night of the school production went extremely smoothly and it is great to see our students really throwing themselves into their roles.

We do ask everyone who comes to please **bring and wear a mask** entering the building and finding your seat. We are also now asking, due to the new guidance, to wear a mask whilst watching the performance.

Choc Fest and Extended Break time Reward

I am delighted that so many of our students have obtained an overall average Attitude to Learning score of 5 or above. This means that they are bringing their personal best to school, engaging and making the most of their lessons. As a reward and celebration for those students with an ATL score of 5+ with no more than 10 negative behaviour points there will be an extended break time the next week where students will enjoy hot chocolate or milkshakes and chocolate treats.

Lateral Flow Tests

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).

'Opportunity and achievement for all'

Sports Fixtures

Year 10 boys' football

Horsforth 0 v 4 Abbey Grange

Year 9 boys' football

Horsforth 6 v 0 Cockburn – player of the match: Ollie

Now progress into the quarter finals of the Leeds Schools Cup alongside our Year 7 and Year 11 teams and will play Guiseley School - an outstanding achievement!

Hockey

Year 7: Roundhay 1 v 2 Horsforth – player of the match: Wassim

Special mention to Grace who scored an amazing goal from the back of the box!

Year 9: Roundhay 1 v 2 Horsforth – player of the match: Dylan

Year 11 boys' football

Horsforth 3 v 3 Abbey Grange – player of the match: Charlie

Incredible comeback from 2-0 down!

Thank you again for your positive feedback and messages of support, as we approach the end of term and students and staff get tired it is always great to share a positive.

Despite the current COVID situation and cold and flu season, staff and student attendance is extremely good compared to other schools and nationally. As I walk through lessons the climate for learning is excellent and I am seeing great efforts from staff and students so please pass on my thanks to your son and daughter for their efforts and positive attitude.

Take care, stay safe and best wishes.

Yours faithfully

Dr P Bell
Headteacher