



## Horsforth School

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Headteacher: Dr P C Bell

Our Ref: PCB/TRH/JFI

4<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

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

As term progresses we are getting increasing staff absence (the majority of which is not COVID related) and greater difficulty in sourcing supply staff. We are in a good position going forward and whilst not having their usual teacher in many cases students are still behaving wonderfully, engaging and contributing to a lovely climate for learning around the school.

### **Masks in Corridors and Communal Areas**

Students have been great in supporting us by wearing their masks in corridors and diners. Anecdotally, I know that a number of schools who went back to no masks have now had to implement their contingency plans and have brought back masks in all areas (including classrooms) due to outbreaks.

We desperately want to avoid masks in classrooms so the fact we have kept masks in communal areas has meant case rates are very low compared to other settings. Whilst rates remain high we will continue to wear them and we do review this weekly. Thank you for your continued support.

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

Thank you so much for your support in continuing to perform lateral flow tests at home. We will continue to issue the kits through form time and will only delay if we have supply issues.

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).

### **Year 8 and Year 9 reports**

Your child's annual school report is being sent home today in paper format, and is also available to view electronically on the SIMs Parent App from Monday of next week. Please try and support your child with any targets that they may have been given by their subject teachers.

If you would like more information regarding our reporting systems then you can look on our website at <https://www.horsforthschool.org/useful-information/reporting-and-parent-communication-2/>

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## Year 8 options

You should have received an email with all of the details regarding the options process for Year 8. If you did not receive this, then you can find all of the relevant information on our website at

<https://www.horsforthschool.org/school/letters-home-year-8/>

The deadline for Year 8 option choices is Friday 18th February.

## Junior Bake Off

There is a great opportunity for students to take part in a national competition. I know many of our wonderful students love to cook so it might be worth a look!



## School Parliament update

Each of our School Parliament committees was visited last week by a member of the Leadership Team, who gave feedback on the ideas for improvement that had been proposed. The cabinet then met with me on Monday to finalise and discuss the next steps, and the outcomes will be communicated to all students next week. I have been incredibly impressed by the commitment and maturity shown by all of our School Parliament members this year.



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## Poetry Competition

Some of our students recently entered a poetry competition and we are proud and delighted to share an amazing poem written by a Year 11 student, Tom:

### If I was in Charge of our World

If it was me in charge,  
My plans would be quite large.  
All nations, fair democracy.  
Free of all bureaucracy.  
No corrupt Quid Pro Quo!  
Listen to the world's woe!  
Stop seeing us as those below  
While you're sipping Bordeaux.

My ambition would be non-stop  
Mandate clean power. Full stop.  
Some may call it a dictatorship  
But that's just a greed-driven guilt trip.  
Our planet is dying, we need to move fast  
some fear our chance has already passed  
But I say we remain steadfast  
And leave the nay-sayers outcast

Put a stop to the senseless fighting  
Down in the Middle East we're inciting  
Needless war of greed and gore  
We must fight less, love more.  
Never be a warmonger  
Lest fighting goes on longer  
And cause more grief and pain  
Allowing even more to be slain

If I was in charge, I ought  
To never throw away my shot.  
To fight a war against iniquity,  
Bring humans to true civility,  
Oust the greedy bourgeoisie.  
Make it an absolute guarantee  
That everyone can live and thrive  
Have all their needs met, never deprived

This is the world if I was in charge.

## Safer Internet day 2022

It is Safer Internet Day next Tuesday, the 8th February. Whilst we continue to raise awareness of this in school through our PSHCE lessons, curriculum and assemblies, the organisation behind this has also

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produced a number of guides, resources and top tips for parents and carers, including where to go if you are concerned or require support. You can find all of the resources here at:

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2022/advice-for-parents-and-carers>

School remains calm and purposeful and I look forward to relaxing our measures as case rates allow. The first thing we will bring back is in person assemblies for the full Year group and then, hopefully, in person parent events but I will update you as soon as I am able. For the time being we will keep parents' evenings remote but please contact the school if you do need support that you may have received at an in-person evening event or meeting to see how we can help.

Thank you for your continued support, kind messages and patience.

Take care, stay safe and best wishes.

Yours faithfully

Dr P Bell  
Headteacher

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