



## Horsforth School

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Headteacher: Dr P C Bell

Our Ref: PCB/TRH/JFI

18<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

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

This week I would like to share an excellent opportunity to train as a teacher, a few reminders and a lovely update on one of our students' exceptional achievement and success.

### Year 8 Options

The deadline for Year 8 option choices is today. If you get the chance, please check that your son or daughter has submitted their choices via options online, a reminder that you can access the website here:

[www.sims-options.co.uk](http://www.sims-options.co.uk)

### Year 9 Options

You should have received all of the information regarding Year 9 option choices via email this week. If you haven't, then all of the information can be found here: <https://www.horsforthschool.org/school/letters-home-year-9/>

The deadline for Year 9 option choices is Friday 11th March.

### COVID Measures After Half Term

The Prime Minister will announce in Parliament the plan for removing legislation and measures on Monday 21st February. School guidance is likely to follow after this point but there is no current timescale for this. I want to be able to give you some certainty over what we will be doing when we return on Monday 28th February.

Our current plan when we return after ½ term is to:

- **Keep masks for the first week back after half term** and to formally review this on the Thursday of that week (unless cases drop significantly or guidance states we should not do this)
- Keep our sanitizer stations at entry and exit points
- Keep all entrance and break/lunch arrangements as they are
- Begin whole Year group assemblies in the hall again
- Invite parents into school for information evenings, transition events etc. again from 28th of February
- Begin planning for more foreign trips (planning usually needs to begin 6 months in advance).

*'Opportunity and achievement for all'*

Case rates are dropping nationally and locally but Horsforth does remain higher than Leeds (576 vs. 470 per 100k), regardless this is great news overall!

Even if masks are removed students will be allowed to wear them if they wish.

As I communicated before, we will take this stepwise approach so that we can put things back if needed. This approach will allow us to see the effect of the change and ultimately to protect learning and our most vulnerable members of the school community.

### **Word of the Week**

Below is a list of all the Words of the Week vocabulary for this half term. We have a new word each week and students are encouraged to use the word in the correct context in lessons. Students will earn credit stamps from their teachers when they use these words correctly each week.

These words are all 'Tier 2' vocabulary, which are high-frequency words that are frequent enough that most native speakers would know what they mean, but usually require explicit instruction (having to look them up in a dictionary, or apply context referencing, etc.).

<b>Word</b>	<b>Definition</b>
<b>Consistent</b>	Acting or done in the same way over time, especially so as to be fair or accurate
<b>Context</b>	The circumstances that form the setting for an event, statement, or idea, and in terms of which it can be fully understood
<b>Controversy</b>	Prolonged public disagreement or heated discussion
<b>Definition</b>	A statement of the exact meaning of a word, especially in a dictionary
<b>Derive</b>	Obtain something from (a specified source)
<b>Empirical</b>	Based on, concerned with, or verifiable by observation or experience rather than theory or pure logic
<b>Estimate</b>	Roughly calculate or judge the value, number, quantity, or extent of

### **Do you know anyone who wants to train as a teacher?**

If you do, could you please let them know that GORSE SCITT will be holding Taster Days in March and April.

*'Opportunity and achievement for all'*

GORSE SCITT is the only Outstanding SCITT in the area and offers a wide range of primary and secondary courses. On the successful completion of the course trainees are awarded QTS, a PGCE and 60 credits towards a Masters qualification.

The Taster Days will be held at The Ruth Gorse Academy (secondary) or Hillcrest Academy (primary) on Wednesday 30 March and at Boston Spa Academy (secondary) or Morley Newlands Academy (primary) on Wednesday 20 April between 10.30am and 2.00pm.

The days will give prospective trainees the opportunity to:

- Find out more about GORSE SCITT and the courses we offer;
- Experience an Outstanding school setting;
- Meet with current trainees;
- Observe excellent practitioners in action;
- Participate in a taster Central Training Session;
- Have the opportunity to ask questions about the application process.

To find out more about GORSE SCITT or to register to attend one of our Taster Days, please signpost your contacts to visit [www.gorsescitt.org.uk](http://www.gorsescitt.org.uk) or ask them to email us directly at [info@gorsescitt.org.uk](mailto:info@gorsescitt.org.uk).

### **Champion again!**

Fergus and Finley have had an amazing track record in International Muay Thai Boxing and it's Fergus this time who has excelled again at the European Championships winning Gold for Team GB in Istanbul!

His dedication and commitment led to an amazing performance in the final over a much bigger opponent. Well done Fergus!



*'Opportunity and achievement for all'*

## **Sports Fixtures**

### Boys rugby

Year 7 35 vs 45 Harrogate Grammar (lost)

Year 8 5 vs 35 Harrogate Grammar (lost)

Year 10 25 vs 26 Harrogate Grammar (lost)

Year 11 12 vs 35 Harrogate Grammar (lost)

### Girl's netball

Year 8 14 vs 6 Prince Henry's GS (won) - Player of the match - Lily

Year 9 9 vs 16 Prince Henry's GS (lost) - Player of the match - Athina

Year 9 vs Guiseley - TBC

Our walkthroughs of lessons and the school show that students and staff continue to work hard with admirable good humour. I know students are tired but I want to thank them for their resilience and positivity. I hope they all have a wonderful, restful ½ term and return refreshed and enthusiastic on the 28th.

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

Take care, stay safe and best wishes.

Yours faithfully

Dr P Bell  
Headteacher