



## Horsforth School

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Our Ref: PCB/TRH/JFI

11<sup>th</sup> March 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

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

Some brilliant news this week from our sports fixtures and we are really looking forward to supporting the Year 10 Rugby Team in the Leeds Cup Final next week. Climate for learning continues to be excellent and it is great to see so many students going above and beyond in and out of lessons.

Whilst school is calm lots is happening in the outside world. We live in fast moving times at the moment and sometimes students can find this overwhelming, worrying and hard to cope with. We always want to support students so please let them know they can come and talk to anyone if they are struggling, some of the letter today will have information that could be helpful.

### **Mental Health and Wellbeing**

I am pleased to announce that we have created a new role at Horsforth to support students with their mental health and wellbeing. Our new Student Support Officer, Jessica Brewer will be working with students in years 7-13 either directly 1:1 or as part of small group intervention. Jessica will be supporting students with a variety of complex needs and I will share further updates about this in due course. She is a welcome and strong addition to our pastoral team.

We are always keen to support students with their wellbeing and developing resilience within our students is an essential part to this. All too often students do not always have the tools to manage their emotions and this can also be a minefield for parents and carers too.

Below are some links to short 5-minute videos on self-help that we are using within school, that you might find useful to view with your child or for your own knowledge or support.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FQoqEtbysoY>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6IQXA3Sjlk4>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ENiYtTujgrU>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HQVZgpyVQ78>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KBrAXNz5ZAc>

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Finally, Kooth is a great website supporting students and parents alike. <https://www.kooth.com/>

### **Safeguarding: Support and Update**

Students have been reminded about keeping safe and what help is available at school in form time, this week. Students have explored risks associated with online safety, sexting, consent, sexual harassment, radicalisation and coercion within teenage relationships. We do look at these themes within PSHCE but use form time and assemblies to get important messages about these issues across to all students at key times.

Students have been asked to write down the names of 3 trusted adults in school that they would turn to for help or advice and have been reminded that they must report issues and concerns, even if it is not about them.

To support students reporting in a discretionary way, quickly, semi- anonymously, and out of school hours, we now have a new reporting tool they can use online on the school's VLE. This is accessed via the school's website homepage. It is called the 'HELP ME' button. Students can click on this to share a concern either about themselves or a peer, something they have witnessed, either in school or out of school, offline and online. It has been launched all this week with students and we do hope parents and carers will encourage the use of this.

### **Summer Rewards Trips**

I am delighted to announce that we have just launched the end of year rewards experiences with students in years 7-10. Students' dedication, hard work and positivity deserves to be rewarded so it is great we can get back towards something more fun and exciting linked to student effort and achievement. Fingers crossed that we are able to run these and there are no further obstacles related to Covid that could prevent this. Our students have managed so well over the last couple of years and thoroughly deserve a fun day with their friends celebrating their achievements.

You should have received a separate email detailing these days last week from Mrs Nowell and can I remind you that the deadline for students and yourselves making the choice to go out or stay in school is Friday 25th March. The choices form is online and the link to this is in your emails and below. I do hope that all students qualify for this day by bringing their personal best every day. May I take this opportunity to recognise and say how proud we are of the vast majority of our students who do this daily, consistently and without prompts or reminders.

Links to these rewards' day options forms can be find here also:

Year 7: [Year 7 Online Form](#)

Year 8: [Year 8 Online Form](#)

Year 9: [Year 9 Online Form](#)

Year 10: [Year 10 Online Form](#)

### **Character Education: Years 7 and 8 Students**

We are delivering our first ever Character education programme to lower school students and so far, it looks a real success. It is lovely to see how many students are wearing their character badges with pride. There are now 3 in total, with the 'Resilience' badge awarded last half term. Below is Year 7 student Syra showing us her tie with her badges with much pride...thanks to Syra for her enthusiasm on this.

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### **Out of School Trip and Link to our Community**

It was a joy for the Religious Studies Team to get back out on the A Level trip to two of our local synagogues in Leeds. A great example of the links we have forged with our wider community. The students found it supplemented their studies very well.

### **British Physics Olympiad**

Congratulations to Oscar, Will, Ella, Reuben, Thomas, Femi, Joe, Jonathan and Alex in year 12 who competed in the Senior Physics Challenge last Friday. I was very proud of all the students who attempted the challenging paper. Having reviewed it myself and marked it I can say it was definitely character building! This will help these students develop resilience, logical thinking and great problem-solving skills so well done to them all.

And a huge well done to Theo in Year 13 who, having achieved the Top Gold award in round 1 of the British Physics Olympiad and qualified for round 2 (which is an incredible achievement in itself, the top 7% of students in the country managed this) went on to gain a silver award in round 2. This is a massive achievement and something Theo will rightly be incredibly proud of.

### **Culture and Theatre**

As we get more towards normal our trips selection will expand so it is great we have been able, through English and Drama, to run trips to theatre productions such as Macbeth, Magic Goes Wrong and The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time. Please look out for future opportunities.

### **Poetry Competition**

We told you in February that some of our students entered a poetry competition and we proudly shared one amazing poem, *If I was in charge of our world*, written by a Year 11 student, Tom. We are delighted to tell you that Tom was one of the winners of the competition.

### **Year 9 Options**

You should have received all of the information regarding Year 9 option choices via email before half term. If you have not received this,, then you can find all of the information can be found on the school website here: <https://www.horsforthschool.org/school/letters-home-year-9/>

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Students select options by logging into [www.sims-options.co.uk](http://www.sims-options.co.uk) and signing in with their school email details using the 'sign in via Google' button. The deadline for Year 9 option choices is **today**, Friday 11th March.

### **Instrumental lessons**

We are delighted to be able to offer instrumental and vocal lessons in school beginning in the summer term. You should have received a letter and expression of interest form via email this week. The deadline for returns is this coming Monday, the 14th March, and completed slips should be returned to Ms Botham in the Music department. Apologies for the short deadline, but we are keen to restart this programme as soon as possible.

### **Horsforth School Lottery – Raising Money for Our Students**

Many of you already generously support our School Lottery which raises additional funds for our students. We would love for more of you to get involved so here's some information about how it works.

- The lottery is run in association with the UK's only lottery organisation dedicated to helping schools – Your School Lottery
- Anyone over 16 years can take part – parents, carers, teachers and the wider community too, so please share with friends, colleagues and relatives (the more people who play the bigger the prizes)
- Tickets start from £1 per week
- There's a guaranteed weekly school prize draw - one of our school's supporters will win a cash prize every week
- An additional weekly national prize draw to win £25,000!
- A percentage of the ticket sales will be given back to our school which will help us to buy additional resources for our students.
- To date lottery money has contributed towards much needed gymnastics equipment, English books and sensory equipment for the SEND department.

Take a look at Horsforth School's dedicated webpage and buy tickets [here](#) - best of luck!



### **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.

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.

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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).

### **Sports Fixtures**

Year 7 3 vs 1 Ilkley (won). Player of the match - Harry

Year 7 1 vs 0 Ralph Thoresby (won). Player of the match - Joe

The Year 7 team have now won the NW Leeds league and qualify for the championship play-off finals - congratulations!!

Year 8 1 vs 0 Ralph Thoresby High School. Player of the match - Ben

Year 8 3 vs 3 Ilkley Grammar School. Player of the match - Ben

Year 9 3 vs 0 RTHS (won). Player of the match – Emery

Year 9 2 vs 1 Ilkley (won). Player of the match - Olly

The Year 9 team have now finished runners up of the NW Leeds league and qualify for the championship play-off finals - congratulations!!

Also, still in the Leeds Schools cup and will play the Semi-final soon.

Year 10 1 vs 2 Roundhay (lost).

Leeds Schools Cup 1/4 final match.

Looking forward to next week, the Year 10 rugby team will be playing in the Yorkshire Schools cup final on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> March at West Park in Bramhope. K.O. is at 5pm. A huge well done on your achievements so far from everyone at Horsforth School and we wish you the best of luck. Your support would be very much appreciated.

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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