



## Horsforth School

Lee Lane East Horsforth

Leeds LS18 5RF

Tel: 0113 226 5454

Fax: 0113 226 5401

Email: [info@horsforthschool.org](mailto:info@horsforthschool.org)

Website: [www.horsforthschool.org](http://www.horsforthschool.org)

Headteacher: Dr P C Bell

Our Ref: PCB/TRH/JFI

21<sup>st</sup> October 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

Thank you for your support over what has been a wonderful term! The school has really felt like we are back to where we were pre COVID and it's been great to have our new building and facilities to support our growing student numbers.

It has been a challenging time for many with the cost of living so I wanted to share some possibly useful advice.

### **Free School Meals and Eligibility for Benefits**

Your child may be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

If you receive any of the above, and your child does not currently receive free school meals, please follow this link so that we can start providing them [Apply for free school meals \(leeds.gov.uk\)](https://www.leeds.gov.uk). If your child receives free school meals, as a school, we receive some funding which allows us to support our children by removing barriers to learning in a variety of areas.

It could be that, due to the pandemic or other factors arising from the current pressures surrounding the cost of living, you may be entitled to receive some support from the government. The calculator accessed via this link is a quick and straightforward way of ascertaining whether this is the case for you [Benefits calculators - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk).

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## **Parent Voice**

Thank you for the response to our parent survey. It's really valuable to hear your views. One area raised by a number of Year 7 parents was the lack of space for Year 7 students at lunchtimes (in particular an outside area in which to play). I am pleased to inform you that, from the first Monday back after half term, Year 7 will have exclusive use of the outdoor netball courts in addition to the BOB diner and the school hall at lunchtimes. They have been told about this in assembly today.

## **Year 10 and 12 Target Grades**

All Year 10 and 12 students have now been given their MTGs (Minimum Target Grades) for their GCSE and A-level courses respectively. These target grades are largely based on attainment at Key Stage 2 and are set for all students at the start of Year 10 and 12, remaining with them for the duration of that Key Stage. We encourage all of our students to strive to achieve their maximum potential, and see these targets as a minimum guide only. Details of individual subject MTGs have already been given to all students as a paper form but these can also be seen by parents using the Sims Parent App. If you have not already downloaded the App we would encourage you to do so to enable you to track and monitor your son/daughter's attendance and behaviour in school as well as their progress towards their targets.

## **Interform**

We are incredibly excited to be able to start up our inter-form sports competition again this year and this week has seen all form groups compete in the first round of fixtures. In Years 7-10, all boys have competed in a rugby competition and all girls have competed in a hockey competition. The response from our students has been fantastic and we are so proud of how they have all stretched themselves this week by demonstrating our key character pillars of respect, responsibility, resilience, wellbeing, aspiration and participation.

I'd like to thank all parents for their encouragement and support in organising such a large-scale competition and although the focus has been very much centred around inclusivity, we would like to share results of the competition and celebrate the winners with you. Sadly, due to adverse weather conditions on Thursday, the Year 8 competition was unable to go ahead, but are looking at a rescheduled date for after half term and once confirmed, we will share this with you.

### Year results:

A huge well done to the following winners of each competition:

Year 7 Boys rugby winners – 7B

Year 7 Girls hockey winners – 7O

Year 9 Boys rugby winners – 9C

Year 9 Girls hockey winners – 9C

Year 10 Boys rugby winners – 10O

Year 10 Girls hockey winners – 10T

## **Christmas Card Competition**

Horsforth School students have the exciting opportunity each year to enter our Christmas card

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competition, giving them the chance to have their artwork chosen to be printed on the front of the School's cards. This could be a drawing or photo they have taken. Please encourage your child to enter by sending their work to [marketing@horsforthschool.org](mailto:marketing@horsforthschool.org). The closing date for entries is Friday the 4th of November and the winner will receive a prize. Good luck!

### **Sixth Form at Horsforth News**

Please share our Sixth Form Open evening date, 10th November at 5:30, with any prospective students. You do not need to study at Horsforth School in Year 11 to come to us and last year 75% of all grades were a B or better and 43% were at A and A\*, the highest in Leeds. There will be an opportunity to listen to the Director of Sixth Form, speak to the subject specialists and see our amazing new facilities.

### **Mocks**

Well done to our Year 13 students who have taken part in Mock Examinations this week.

### **Year 12 Sports Ambassadors**

Thank you so much to the Year 12 Sports Ambassadors who supported the PE team with interform this week.

### **Sports Fixtures**

#### Boys football

Horsforth 6<sup>th</sup> form 2 vs 3 Guiseley

Horsforth Year 7 2 vs 0 Abbey Grange

Horsforth Year 7 0 vs 2 Ilkley

Player of the tournament – Alfie

#### Girls football

Leeds Schools Cup 2<sup>nd</sup> round

Horsforth U12 7 vs 0 Carr Manor

As the term draws to a close we can celebrate some fantastic student achievements in sporting and academic endeavours, students have really hit the ground running after such a disrupted last few years. Staff have been incredibly positive and we are really looking forward to coming back in a week so we can pick up where we left off.

Thank you for your support and I look forward to another very successful year.

Yours faithfully

Dr P Bell  
Headteacher

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