



Horsforth School

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Our Ref: PCB/TRH/JFI

18th November 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

There are lots of exciting things happening in and out of school at the moment! Our Japan Super Science Fair trip has returned after some amazing experiences. We are really looking forward to the Battle of the Bands and had some great theatre trips and a professional performance in school to really bring literature to life. I would like to draw your attention to our safeguarding tips and to let you know we are having a real drive on online safety next week.

I would like to remind you that the **school is shut to students for our Training days** on Friday 25th and Monday 28th November.

Safeguarding Updates

As you know from time to time, we like to update you on aspects or themes of our safeguarding work. I would like to share with you some key messages and concerns.

Anti-Bullying

This week in school has been Anti-Bullying week and I thank you for your support by allowing your child to wear odd socks on Monday 14th November. Our Anti-Bullying Policy is on the school website; it has four steps which clearly outline our approach for reporting and tackling bullying in school. I do want you to know that it is taken very seriously by the school and I invite you to read the policy. All students in years 7 to 13 have been given a very clear message about the consequences of bullying and in particular online bullying and how we will respond to this. Please be assured that we will address any unkind or hurtful behaviours, including derogatory language. A reminder that students must report this type of behaviour and can do so by using the HELP ME reporting button on the VLE or by reporting to any staff at school.

Youth Produced Sexual Imagery – ‘Sexting’

Throughout last year we worked hard on raising awareness of the dangers of ‘sexting’. We reminded our students in June during our safeguarding week that it is an offence for any young people to produce sexual imagery, or download it, or pass it on to others.

Unfortunately, we have had to investigate several incidents this term whereby students have committed this offence. We also have a duty to report this to the police. We have delivered some hard-hitting messages around child criminal and sexual exploitation and how social media is being used as a tool for this. This has been done with both staff and students. As a reminder to yourselves, ‘sexting’ is illegal and

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the age of the person sending or receiving does not matter. Even storing an illicit image on a phone or mobile device is illegal. To find out more, please use the link below. www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/sexting/

Self-Harm

Unfortunately, we have seen an increase in the number of students who are using self-harm to cope with or express overwhelming emotions and stresses. We do have mental health first aiders in school who have received specialist training on how to manage, deal with and support students who self-harm. We treat each student individually and we will always notify parents and carers if we suspect self-harm. Please do take time with your child if you suspect they may have self-harmed and please use the links below for more information about self-harm. We hope that our work on mental health will help prevent this in the future and equip students with distraction strategies and other ways to manage their emotions.

www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/self-harm

www.addaction.org.uk/advice-and-information/young-people/self-harm-help-for-parents-and-carers

Child Protection

We have a designated team of specialist trained staff who deal with many aspects of safeguarding, and in particular Child Protection. As a reminder the Designated Lead for Child Protection is Mrs Nowell, Deputy Head. It is our duty of care to monitor and investigate issues of concern and we do work with and liaise with children's social work services to support our children and their families.

As part of our Child Protection Procedures, all staff receive annual training. This year, Female Genital Mutilation, CCE (county lines) CSE, and Anti-Radicalisation have been a real focus within our staff training. Ensuring staff are well equipped to identify and manage concerns over these areas of safeguarding is fundamental in keeping your children safe. We share the appropriate aspects of all this with our young people to support their growth and development in becoming considerate and well-rounded individuals.

You should have received a separate letter about how we receive domestic violence notifications and how the school supports this.

Year 10 and 11 Theatre Performances

In the last few weeks both Year 10 and 11 have enjoyed live theatre in school. This week Year 10 watched a performance of A Christmas Carol from London based Quantum Theatre. The performance was visually stunning, filled with singing and dancing and some laughs and hopefully really brought the literature text they are currently studying to life.

Just prior to the mocks, Year 11 were treated to a performance of An Inspector Calls. Students were fascinated to see the assembly hall transformed into a theatre in the round which was able to fully immerse them into the Birling family dining room in 1912 Edwardian England.

Non-Uniform Day for Children in Need

We are delighted to share that our grand total of donations for Children in Need is £1304.71! Thank you so much to everyone who contributed.

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Mock Results Day

Well done to our Year 11s who have recently gone through their first mock examinations and received their results today.



Odd Socks Day

Students showed their support and stance against bullying by coming to school on Monday in normal uniform, but wearing odd socks! This has been the campaign of the Anti-Bully Alliance. Wearing odd socks highlights the message that we are all different, but all equal. Thank you to all staff and students who participated.



Sports Fixtures

Despite some horrendous weather which unfortunately led to some matches being cancelled, we still have some fantastic results to share.

Boys football

Year 7 1 vs 0 Abbey Grange

Year 7 2 vs 0 Prince Henry's GS

Year 7 B team 3 vs 2 Prince Henry's GS B team

Year 9 1 vs 0 Crawshaw

(Leeds Schools Cup – they now progress to the next round!)

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Girls netball

U16 3 vs 10 Gateways

Boys rugby

Year 7 25 vs 15 Ilkley Grammar School

Year 8 45 vs 15 Ilkley Grammar School

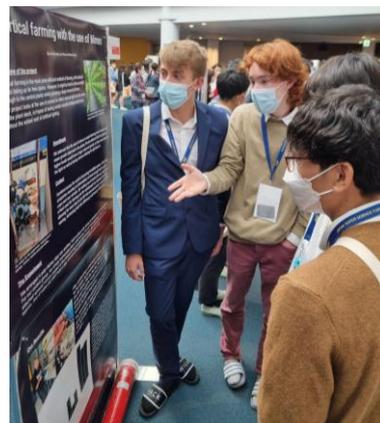
Sixth Form at Horsforth News

Japan Super Science Fair

Six Year 12 students have just returned from a jam-packed, cultural and educational exchange to Kyoto, Japan. Students spent five days in Ritsumeikan High School and University where they took part in the 'Japan Super Science Fair 2022', along with 30 other schools from all across the Globe, from Hawaii to Iran.



Our six Horsforth students split into two groups and spent six weeks planning their own projects to show-case at the fair; 'The use of vertical gardens in a World with a rising population and less space' and 'The use of biodegradable housing wall insulation (Sheep's wool) as an alternative to plastic-containing insulation.' Both projects were presented to JSSF participants in an oral and/or poster presentation. It was an amazing learning experience for our students as they spent the morning swapping ideas and learning from posters from other countries.



There was a fantastic opportunity to explore the city of Kyoto on day four, when their Japanese buddies took them for Sushi and a shopping trip (yes, they did run to the Pokémon shop)! Other cultural opportunities included cultural exchange booths, where students got to take part in games unique to each country e.g. calligraphy from Japan and the paper-flip challenge Ddakji from Korea (which featured on Squid

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game). To finish off the week, our students gave an unforgettable performance on the final day during the cultural performances section. They shared knowledge of Bonfire night and other British celebrations following an impressive whistle-stop tour of regional accents by Joe Peers and dishing out our famous Parkin & digestive biscuits for the audience.



Students deepened their knowledge of Japanese culture by visiting one of the many shrines and Nijō castle before saying 'Sayonara' with a belly full of the best Ramen they have ever eaten.



Students are looking forward to hosting 10 Ritsumeikan high school students in March to return the hospitality and show their buddies what Yorkshire has to offer. We are looking for 10 host families from students in Years 11 and 12; please contact Mr Caden if you could potentially host one of the exchange students in March 2023.



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Sixth Form Common Room - Common Grounds

Our wonderful new common room, Common Grounds opened for Sixth Form students this week and all students were delighted to receive a free pastry. Students can enjoy a variety of food and drinks in the comfort of this fantastic new space as well as having a great space to socialise and study in.



Non-Uniform Day for Children in Need

Our Sixth Form students amazed us this morning with their fancy dress for Children in Need.



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Whilst the weather has not been great this week our students have been wonderful during the wet breaks and lunches. I would always prefer to get to my Astroturf duty at lunch for the fresh air but we have had to be inside for a couple of days as it is too wet and then we need to open inside or covered areas so duty staff need to be moved. Please pass on my thanks for our students' patience and support.

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

Yours faithfully

Dr P Bell
Headteacher