

Horsforth School

Lee Lane East Horsforth

Leeds LS18 5RF

Tel: 0113 226 5454

Fax: 0113 226 5401

Email: info@horsforthschool.org

Website: www.horsforthschool.org

Headteacher: Dr P C Bell

Our Ref: PCB/TRH/JFI

24th February 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

This is Horsforth School's 50th Year. As a result, we are planning a 50th anniversary celebration with performances by students, curriculum displays and a tour of the school on Tuesday 11th July. If you would like to stay informed of what is going on or have any suggestions of what we could add to the event then please add your thoughts and details here: <https://forms.gle/6MoUyaDs5nZVjzYWA>

NEU Industrial Action Tuesday 28th February

As I said in my letter on Tuesday we will only be open to students in Year 11, children of Critical Workers and Vulnerable students by invitation. Over half the teaching staff are in the NEU and the impact on lessons on the first day was significant. As a result, we want to make the day as meaningful as possible so we are improving the remote learning provided as well as in school activities.

These students must come into school by 8.40am. Year 11 must come in through the back gate and go through the main entrance to the new building where they will learn that day. Children of Critical Workers and Vulnerable students should come into school through either entrance and go straight to the ELC.

All other Years will be learning remotely and we will inform students of which teachers are in school and able to teach before 8.40am. Any teacher who is present (not ill, not on a course, striking or heavily involved in supporting the students in school) will teach a live element as they did during COVID.

Key Worker and Vulnerable Provision on the Strike Day

The provision will be available to invited vulnerable students only and to children of critical workers only (education, emergency response, health care and social services). We have a limited number of places due to low staffing and we ask if children can work from home safely.

Students in the Key Worker and Vulnerable Provision will complete the same work as those at home which will be independent learning tasks set online. There will be no teaching on these days in school. Staff will supervise learning and ensure student safety at unstructured times. If you need a place as a critical worker, please complete the form below by Monday morning 9.00am when the form will close.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfAnuanbrDIpubE363rww2S4fzA9r4AGIFNwCLe70IbH5OEQA/viewform?usp=sf_link

'Opportunity and achievement for all'

Century Learning

We are always looking for new ways to support student learning so we are going to invest in a new online learning programme called Century. It works for all Year 7 to 11 students and is supported by an Artificial Intelligence element. Students will complete a diagnostic assessment and then the AI will create a sequence of learning that best supports each student. Whilst I still believe that having a great teacher in front of students is the best way to learn, this will make revision, homework and disrupted days (snow/strikes etc.) much easier, bespoke and meaningful.

Currently the Century learning programme is for English, maths and science but we hope this will support students in a much more targeted and personalised way. You can find out more in this video (which is meant for teachers but gives you a picture of what it is like):

<https://www.century.tech/explore-century/secondary-schools/#secondary-how-century-works>

Sign up to Horsforth School Lottery and be in with a Chance to Win a Whole Year of HelloFresh

Sign up to our school lottery by the 25th February and you will be entered into a prize draw to win a year's subscription to HelloFresh. These fantastic meal boxes deliver fresh high-quality ingredients direct to your door – with everything you need to create delicious dinners from scratch. Don't miss out - get your tickets today! Take a look at Horsforth School's dedicated webpage and buy tickets [here](#) - best of luck!

- 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



Summer Rewards Days Launch

We have been very pleased to launch the July rewards trips to students in years 7-10 this week. All parents and carers will receive a separate email about the finer details next week and I really do please ask that you

'Opportunity and achievement for all'

read over the email and check your next steps with deadlines.

The July trips mark our end of year whole school rewards for students who bring their personal best. It is not a given that students attend these trips, they need to earn their place and qualify passing 5 criteria. To make it fair, we wipe the behaviour slate clean at the start of this half term for all students. They must meet our set criteria within the time frame which starts now. This is to motivate and encourage students to perform well and achieve their best within school for the remainder of this academic year. We hope that as many students as possible will be eligible to take part in this day; we certainly look forward to a day of celebration and fun for all those taking part.

Attendance and Punctuality Focus

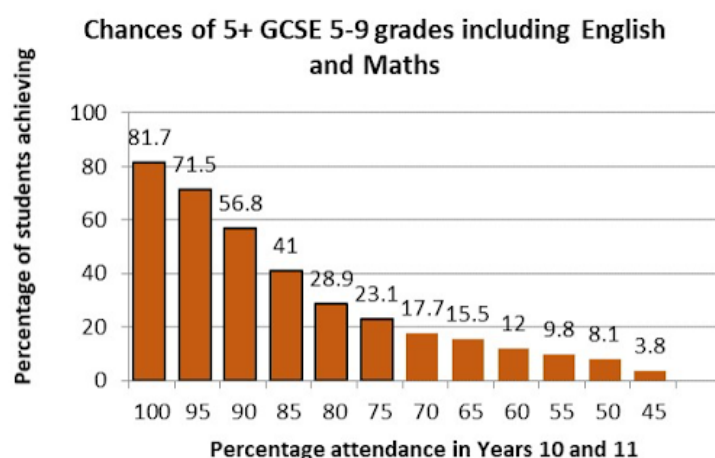
Research proves that there is a very clear relationship between excellent school attendance and academic achievement. Year after year, the students with the best school attendance achieve the best results. We are passionate about providing students with the best possible life chances and as such, know they have to 'be here to get there.'

All students at Horsforth School are set an attendance target of 96% or above. Students with 96% attendance and above are more likely to:

- Be appointed to a well-paid job.
- Make the best progress in their subjects.
- Develop good habits for work and wider life.
- Achieve higher than average grades in their GCSEs.
- Secure a place at a college, University or a training course.
- Maintaining strong and sound friendships.

Parents, carers and families are therefore asked to ensure that their young person is in school every day of term and on time. Poor time keeping and arriving late to school can impact on overall attendance totals. At 90% or below students are classed as 'Persistent Absentees' and the DfE warns of the impact that this can have not only on a child's progress but their personal development, relationships and social skills.

Evidence from a Department for Education study shows a strong correlation between school attendance and GCSE success. The chart below illustrates this:



The children's commissioner set an ambitious target for 100% attendance for all children for Autumn Term 2022 to ensure no child gets left behind or falls out of sight. Schools are undoubtedly the best place

'Opportunity and achievement for all'

for children to thrive and be safe.

As such we are having a second whole school drive on punctuality and attendance this half term. We will be raising awareness of the importance of being on time to school and class as well as the skills of resilience and accountability.

Maintaining an attendance record of 100% is a brilliant achievement and one that we reward and celebrate throughout the year. As a one off for this half term however, we will be celebrating students who achieve 100% attendance for the full half term (up to March 31st) with various in-house prizes and bonus awards. We will also extend additional rewards to students who gain 96% in the same time frame (no more than 2 days absent). This will be a reward for those students who show resilience and excellent attitudes to school and provide shorter term goals. We do, however, recognise that in some cases, absence from school is unavoidable and this will be considered. Examples of absence for our consideration:

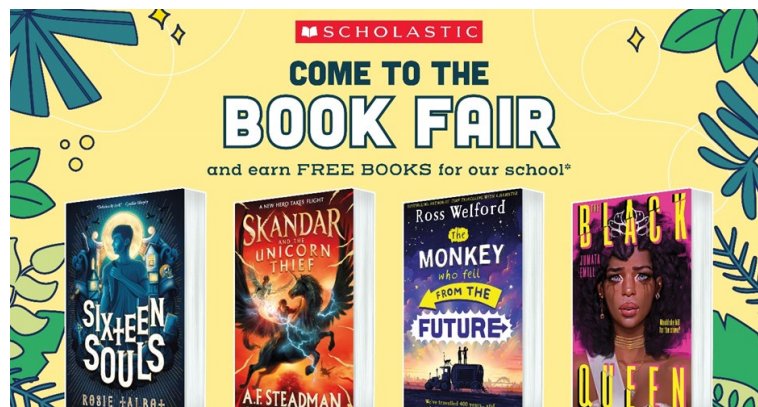
- to mark a religious observance, including attending the wedding of an immediate family member.
- to attend a specialist medical appointment related to a medical condition.
- to grieve for, and attend a funeral of an immediate family member.
- a serious medical condition that school are already aware of.

School Book Fair

The School Book Fair is in the Library from 8:15am Monday 6th March to 3:30pm Thursday 9th March.

Students will be bringing home some information next week and we will be running various competitions all week to win vouchers to spend at the fair!

To pre-order, use this link here: <https://shop.scholastic.co.uk/schools/horsforth/digital-book-club>



Vacancies

Please look at our website where you can find the latest vacancies. We are currently looking to fill a variety of positions including a head chef and other kitchen staff, an Administrator and Teaching Assistants. If you are interested in these roles please click on this link: <https://www.horsforthschool.org/vacancies/> or call 0113 2265454 for further details.

Sports Fixtures

Elev8Dance News

We are delighted to announce we have many students who have made it on to team England 2023. 12 of

'Opportunity and achievement for all'

these students are from Horsforth School.

Harry from Year 12, Katie and Gabriella from Year 9, Isobel, Alice, Sophia and Grace from Year 8, and Florence, Amelia, Romilly, Holly and Bella from Year 7.

All will be representing their country in the dance World Cup finals in Portugal this year. This is a massive achievement and a once in a lifetime opportunity!

Sixth Form at Horsforth News

Department of Transport Visit

Earlier this month two of our Sixth Formers Ella and Emily were invited to speak at a Holocaust Educational Trust event at the Department of Transport. The girls were asked to speak about their stand out projects from last year. Speaking in front of 60 civil servants and countless others that tuned in online is a really rewarding experience for the girls and they represented themselves magnificently. Big thanks to Mr Mason for helping facilitate this and providing moral support by accompanying them!

I would like to end by thanking and congratulating our Year 11 students for their focus and hard work during the mock exams. They have coped extremely well and we are proud of their efforts.

Thank you, as always, for your support.

Yours faithfully

Dr P Bell
Headteacher