

Horsforth School

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Our Ref: PCB/TRH/JFI

24th March 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we approach the final week of term I would like to thank you for your support in keeping standards high in school. Your help in ensuring students are on time, in uniform and ready to learn really helps us and ensures that we can do our very best for the students at Horsforth so thank you again!

Poetry Success!

Following a fantastic day in school with 90 Year 7s, working with a local poet as part of the Leeds Poetry Slam project, we sent our winning team - Naomi, Joseph and Elizabeth to compete in the Grand Final at the Left Bank in Leeds. In a competitive evening of performance poetry our students were awarded third place, we are very proud of them and their amazing work.



Neurodiversity Week

From Monday it's neurodiversity celebration week and also marks national Autism Acceptance week. At Horsforth we believe in Opportunity and Achievement for All and that means we want to ensure that all our students feel accepted and, if possible, understood. We will have form time activities to support this and some of our students have been working together to prepare for Autism acceptance week.

They've created a display in the library, found a video to replace article of the week which will be shared in form times next week, and are planning a bake sale next Friday with all proceeds going to organisations that support Autistic people. They've also worked really hard to create ribbons which are being distributed

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to some staff and students to show support for Autistic people.

Our word of the week next week is *acceptance*; the idea being that it's not good enough to be 'aware' of differences between us but we need to 'accept' these and in fact embrace them.

Diversity and Inclusion talks

We are pleased to announce the first of several pieces of work we will be completing with our students on inclusion and diversity. On the 28th and 29th March we have a motivational speaker talking to years 7-10 who has overcome many challenges in his life despite his disability, someone whose message represents resilience and perseverance with a "can-do" attitude. This echoes our character builders and the values we wish to instil in our young people.

Students will meet Bart, born with arthrogyrosis, his doctors said he would never walk or sit up independently. With a can-do attitude, Bart started walking and has been able to take part in many sports and activities including playing the piano and drums.



Geography Trips to York

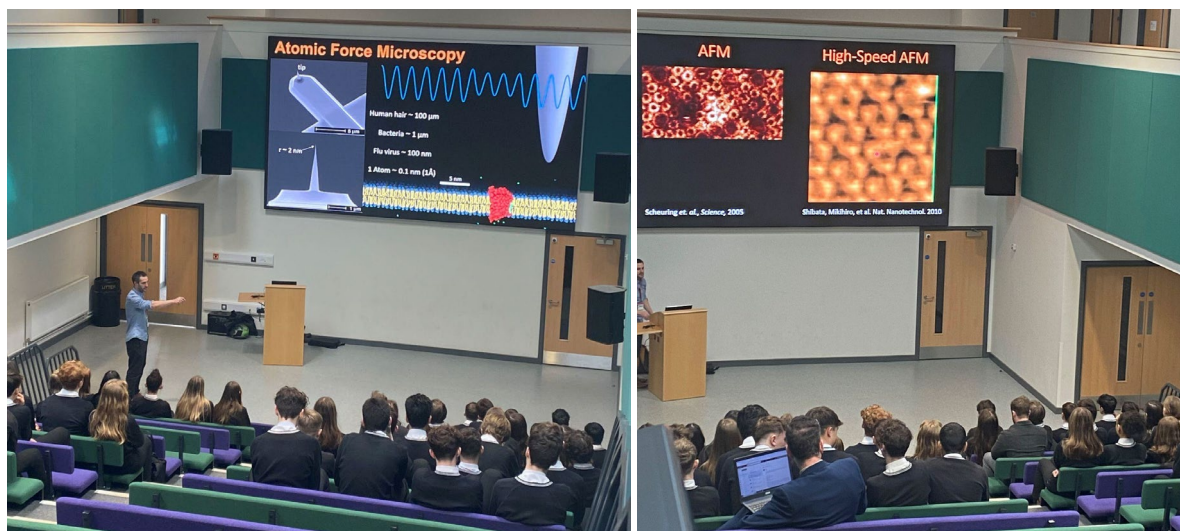
The Year 11 geography students took part in a human geography field trip to York. The trip was a great success with students collecting data on environmental and housing quality to help investigate differences in deprivation. Well done to all that took part!



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Filming Life at The Nanoscale

Our Year 10 students were treated to a visit from George from the University of Leeds this afternoon to discuss how we could use physics and biology to film DNA and proteins in action and then analyse these to improve our treatments of diseases. Thank you, George!



Red Nose Day Donations

Thank you to everyone who donated for Red Nose Day on non-uniform day last Friday. We have raised a total of £1,105 which is fantastic.

Muaythai Success

Congratulations to Year 11 student Fergus won Gold in the World Muaythai Federation World Championships held in Bangkok last week.

Personal Development Curriculum and Offer

We have developed and enhanced our personal development offer for all students across the school. We are keen to make parents aware of this new offer and explain what personal development means at Horsforth School.

Personal Development is the main driver for educating the 'whole child.' It has a vital role in preparing children and young people to negotiate the challenges and opportunities of an increasingly complex world. This presents many positive and exciting opportunities, but also challenges and risks. Personal Development occurs through PSHCE, RS and other planned lessons. It supports pupils to be healthy (mentally and physically), safe (online and offline) and equipped to thrive in their relationships and careers. It helps equip our young people with the skills and knowledge needed for the wider world now and later into adult life. Personal Development occurs through planned experiences and opportunities such as trips, visits, super curricular events, themed weeks or drop-down day's and activities.

It goes beyond the academic, technical or vocational, it occurs within and beyond the classroom, on and off school site.

We divide our Personal Development offer into 8 strands. Each strand is delivered to each year group 7-13. The diagram explains the content of these 8 strands.

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The 8 strands ensure breadth and depth of our offer throughout the key stages.



To see what is taught in each strand, please click on the relevant year group link below which will take you to more detail on our website.

Year 7:

<https://www.horsforthschool.org/school/looking-after-you-year-7/#pd>

Year 8:

<https://www.horsforthschool.org/school/looking-after-you-year-8/#pd>

Year 9:

<https://www.horsforthschool.org/school/looking-after-you-year-9/#pd>

Year 10:

<https://www.horsforthschool.org/school/looking-after-you-year-10/#pd>

Year 11:

<https://www.horsforthschool.org/school/looking-after-you-year-11/#pd>

Examination Policy

Please find here a link to our school [Examination Policy](#) which details our systems and processes for the conduct of internal and external exams. The frequently asked questions section contains some useful information and guidance for both parents and students.

Sports Fixtures

The Yorkshire Bowl Final

The Yorkshire Bowl final for our Year 11's was a success! For the second year running our Year 11 boys have triumphed! The team from Parkside put up a great fight but ultimately our boys ran out 20-5 winners.

They were a massive credit to the school not only in their performance but also in their conduct, we are incredibly proud of them all.

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Year 11 GCSE Moderation Football

Huge Congratulations to all the Year 11 Footballers that took part this week in their GCSE Moderation. They all showed great ability and determination throughout. Pictures taken by Alexander. A real joy to be part of and a real credit to the school.



Vacancies

Please look at our website where you can find the latest vacancies. We are currently looking to fill a variety of positions. If you are interested in these roles please click on this link:

<https://www.horsforthschool.org/vacancies/> or call 0113 2265454 for further details.

Sixth Form at Horsforth News

The Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA)

The Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA) is an annual course held in a rural setting at a purpose-built activity centre to develop leadership skills, resilience and many more skills.

We are very proud that after a tough interview process Joe and Alice were awarded funded places against other students from other schools.

Sixth Form West Yorkshire Schools Golf Competition

Well done to Niall in Year 12 won the boys gross score with 34 gross points. He will qualify for the North of England Schools Championships. This is fantastic news for our Sixth Form and the golf academy!

The team of Niall, Zara and Josh also qualified for the finals of the Yorkshire Schools Championships at Darrington Golf Club.

The other players were also a credit to the school. The full scores are on the English Schools Golf Association (ESGA) web site. A great result from our Golf academy at our first big schools' competition.

Mental Health Bake Sale

Our Sixth Form Mental Health Ambassadors hosted a bake sale at break and lunchtime today to raise money for our mental health room. The bake sale was organised by our wonderful Year 12 ambassadors.

We are so proud of the academic and sporting achievements over the past two weeks. Our students' dedication, hard work and resilience is really paying off and some of what may seem to be smaller and less

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recognised successes really build up over time and I would like to recognise that. For every success there are lots of mini successes and failures that build up, help us learn and ultimately make us better.

That's the secret to success, always striving for improvement and that's what we aim for and I see students doing every day.

Thank you, as always, for your support.

Yours faithfully

Dr P Bell
Headteacher