

Horsforth School

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Headteacher: Dr P C Bell

Our Ref: PCB/TRH/JFI

21st April 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

Thank you for your patience and understanding during the Teachers strikes. I am sorry but it will disrupt our school further on Thursday 27th April and Tuesday 2nd May again. I would like to spend the start of today's letter explaining our approach but as previously explained we will follow the guidance and prioritise the year groups who will be sitting their exams this summer.

Strike Day Plans

The NEU is the UK's largest education union and our experience of the last four strike days tells us we can expect over half of our staff to be striking. As a result, we will not be able to operate our normal provision in school and, as for the previous four strike days, we will be closed to some year groups who we expect to learn remotely with a live element if their teacher is present or complete the online learning set on the Google classroom.

The plan for the days by Year group are below:

| | Thursday 27 April | Tuesday 2 May |
|----------------|---|---------------|
| Year 7 | Remote learning with live lessons if the teacher is present following the usual timetable. If the teacher is striking or absent then the remote learning set on the Google Classroom. | |
| Year 8 | Remote learning with live lessons if the teacher is present following the usual timetable. If the teacher is striking or absent then the remote learning set on the Google Classroom. | |
| Year 9 | Remote learning with live lessons if the teacher is present following the usual timetable. If the teacher is striking or absent then the remote learning set on the Google Classroom. | |
| Year 10 | Remote learning with live lessons if the teacher is present following the usual timetable. If the teacher is striking or absent then the remote learning set on the Google Classroom. Some students will be invited in to complete coursework. | |
| Year 11 | Attend school and report to the Sixth Form building (be onsite by 8:40) | |
| Year 12 | Students will come into school and attend lessons of staff who are present (a list will be posted on the Google Classroom) | |
| Year 13 | Attend school for lessons and revision sessions running (a list will be posted on the Google Classroom) | |

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Students must arrive before 8:20am (normal start time) through the back entrance to the school and will be learning and having lunch in the new Sixth Form campus.

Year 12 students should come in only for lessons they have been informed by Mr Watkins that are running.

Key Worker and Vulnerable Provision Strike Days 27th April and 2nd May

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, they do so.

Students in the Critical 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 24th April at noon when the form will close. Please note, once you complete the form, if you meet the criteria, your place is secure and we do not reply to give confirmation of the place.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfAnuanbrDIpubE363rwk2S4fzA9r4AGIFNwCLe70IbHSOEQA/viewform?usp=sf_link

Ofqual Student Guide 2023

Ofqual has published its [2023 Student Guide](#) on this year's approach to exams. It does not contain any new information that students do not already have but is a useful reminder in student friendly language.

Thinking About Teaching?

There are still opportunities for you to train to be a teacher, with GORSE SCITT, from September 2023. GORSE SCITT is rated Outstanding by Ofsted and successfully supports and trains teachers across all subjects in the primary and secondary phases.

If you would like to find out more about what it is like to work in a school environment GORSE SCITT offers a School Experience Programme where you can shadow a teacher for the day or Taster Days where you can find out more about what the Initial Teacher Training course entails.

For further information please visit their website www.gorsescitt.org.uk or contact us by calling 0113 4871777 or by emailing us at info@gorsescitt.org.uk.

Extra-curricular Activities

It is great to see how many of our students have been involved in our fabulous extra-curricular programme over the past two terms but it is not too late for students who have yet to join in, to find a club they might be interested in and come along in the new term.

A reminder of what we offer can be found [here](#) and also on each of the year group tabs of the website under the 'Clubs, Trips and After-school activities' button. Here you can see exactly what is on offer for each year group. The list is constantly being updated and added to and several new activities are now on offer that students may want to get involved in.

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We hope that every student manages to engage with the programme in some way before the end of the school year as it is a great way to meet new people, learn new skills and have fun whilst doing it.

Combined Cadet Force

Over Easter the CCF was busy. Some of the junior cadets went away to the Isle of Wight and enjoyed sailing and other activities on the water. They spent the week at the UK Sailing Academy. They had some lovely weather and had a great time on the water.

Cadets Corporals Carey and Gatenby did their senior cadet instructors' course. Both had to teach a theory and a practical lesson to a group of other senior cadets from all over the North of England. They also did some blank fire activities to practise their patrolling skills. Upon completion of this course both are now eligible to be promoted to sergeant.



Lister Hill Baptist Church Visit

This week our Year 10 GCSE Religious Studies students visited the local Lister Hill Baptist Church as part of their studies. Thank you to Mrs Gledhill for organising the trip!



Dancing Success

Back in the autumn Lilia and Matilda took part in a regional ballroom and Latin American dancing competition where they both qualified for the national finals. The finals took place at the famous home of ballroom dancing, the Winter Gardens in Blackpool during the Easter holidays.

Both girls did very well with Matilda making the final in her age group for Latin dancing (competing in all 5 dances, cha cha cha, samba, paso doble, rumba and jive) and placed 5th nationally. Lilia made the final in her

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age group for ballroom (competing in all 5 dances, waltz, quickstep, tango, foxtrot and Viennese waltz) and placed 3rd nationally.

Both girls were over the moon with their achievements at what is a very tough competition and their success is testament to their hard work and commitment. Congratulations Lilia and Matilda!



Horsforth Golf Academy

Over the Easter break, some of the Horsforth Golf Academy students were involved in the international game against Dortmund which they won overall. They will also be involved in the Cookridge Hall Junior Open which will take place on Monday 8th May 1.30pm.

Congratulations to our Year 13 student Zara came 2nd in the Scottish Open (international competition). She was leading in round 1 and 2 and came 2nd which is amazing!

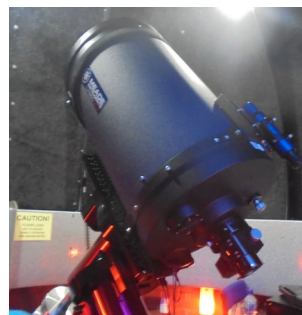
Sports Fixtures

Please see attached the PE Extra Curricular Timetable for Summer 2023.

Sixth Form at Horsforth News

University of York Observatory Trip

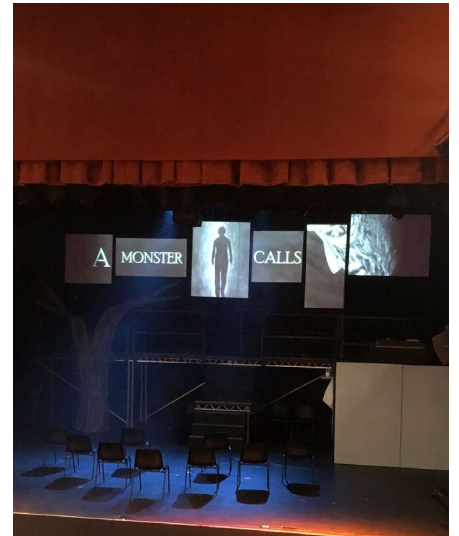
Just before the Easter break, some of our A Level Physics students took a trip over to the University of York Observatory. They saw the equipment at the university and the techniques they use to image the night sky including infrared, optical and radio telescopes. They also heard about how emission spectra can be used to learn about the expanding universe and the composition of distant galaxies.



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A Monster Calls Trip

Before the holidays our drama students had the opportunity to watch A Monster Calls on the opening night at Carriage Works Theatre. Not only that, Mrs Bevan arranged a pre-show talk for the students with the director, Janine Walker!



Find Out What Goes on at the Sixth Form at Horsforth

Connect with us:



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Thank you, as always, for your support.

Yours faithfully

Dr P Bell
Headteacher

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