



Closure Information in the Event of Bad Weather

If there is heavy snow overnight or in the morning and it proves impossible to open the school at the normal time, we will post a message on the home page of our website. We will update this message as conditions change. We will also send a text message to Parents/Carers.

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Please use our website as your main source of information. We aim to have a clear message on our website by 6:30am. We would appreciate it if you did not phone school to check website information as this could prevent or delay crucial communication with outside organisations. Please only contact us in an emergency.

We do have a site team and some snow cleaning equipment and we will do all we can to open/stay open during periods of bad weather. It is only when safety is perceived to be at risk that a judgement to close school will be made as we appreciate that normal life should continue wherever possible. Our staff, however, live across a wide geographical area and in extreme conditions it may prove impossible to secure the level of staffing we need to open safely.

Sporting News

Badminton

Three of our teams: Under 14 boys, Under 14 girls and Under 16 girls have qualified for the Leeds Schools finals at Garforth next term. The Under 14 boys have also had some outstanding league results including an 8-0 victory over the Grammar School at Leeds.

Basketball

Both our Under 14 and Under 16 teams have qualified for the Leeds finals. Between them they have a record of 12 wins out of 13 matches.

Table Tennis

Our Under 13 and Under 15 boys Table Tennis teams are top of their respective leagues, with the U15's being unbeaten.

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Parent Forum

All Parents/Carers are invited to an open forum on Monday 1st February 6:00-7:00pm in the School Hall. We would like to hear your views on Post 16 Provision.

News from the Drama Department

The Drama Department has been very busy this week:

***Splendid
Productions**

The Odyssey



Post 16 students in Year 12 and 13 visited Ilkley Grammar School to work with drama students there. They enjoyed watching the play 'The Odyssey' by the acclaimed Splendid Productions and later took part in a workshop. It was a great opportunity to work collaboratively with other students from the Red Kite alliance.



Year 7 pupils were enthralled by Chitty Chitty Bang Bang at the West Yorkshire playhouse. It was a brilliant production and hopefully the first of many for our new Year 7 theatre fans.

The Operetta Theatre Company, visited school today to perform the hard hitting 'Too Much Punch for Judy' to Year 10 students. The play, written by Mark Wheeler, deals with road safety and dangerous driving. It was a thought provoking production which will provide the basis for a theatre review.



The Pals

There will be performances of Act Two of 'The Pals' at school on 13th and 14th July 2016. The play lasts 70 minutes and is being staged to remember the thousands of soldiers, many of them underage; who gave their lives in this country's service at the Battle of the Somme; that beautiful but fateful July morning a century ago.

Fourteen year ten students are now busy learning their lines and preparing the play and deserve to perform to full houses.

Full details of performance times and tickets will be provided nearer the time.

Busking Students Raise Funds for 'The World Food Programme'

On Sunday 13th December, the music department took 40 students to do some busking at 'The Light' in Leeds in order to raise money for 'The World Food Programme'. After singing and playing for three hours, the students collected a whopping £399.24. They continued to raise money at the Christmas Concert and increased that amount to £668. For every £1 raised, the UN will contribute £4, so ultimately £3,400 will be given to starving families throughout the world and also to projects that aim to eradicate hunger in 15 years!



PTA Quiz Evening

Come along to a great evening at Horsforth School. The PTA are organising a fun Quiz Evening with a pie supper on Friday 18th March. Further details will be available soon. We are also appealing for any donations of small items suitable for raffle prizes at our fund raising events.

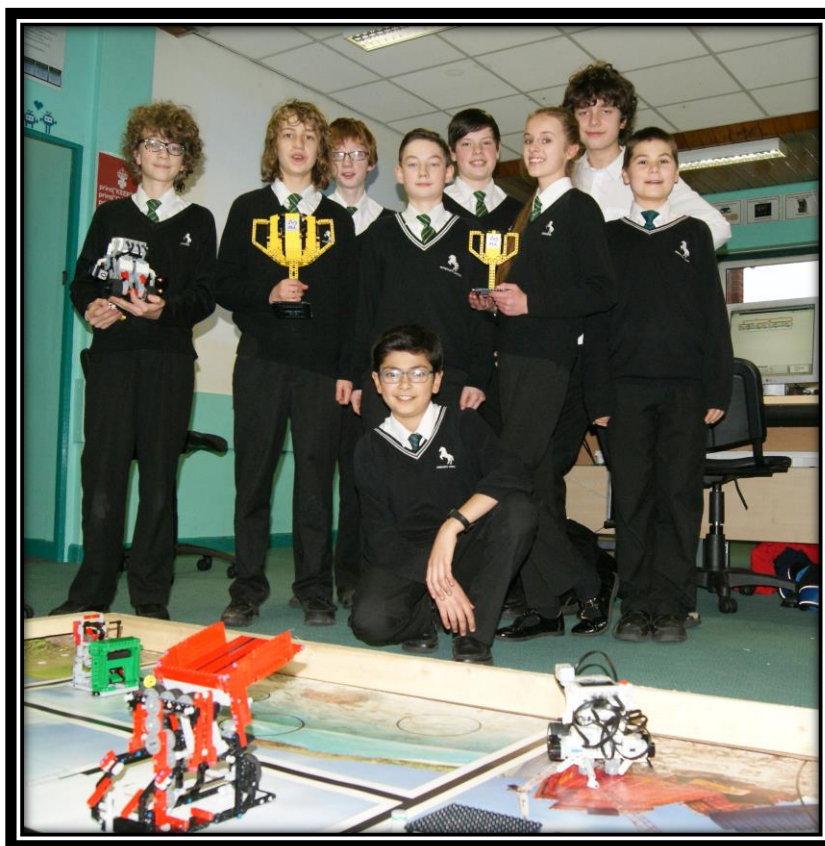


Horsforth Team Wins Lego Robots Tournament

On 16th December the Static Robots team, comprising the members of our Lego Robots Club, represented Horsforth School at the regional First Lego League tournament at Bradford University. 18 teams, mostly from the Leeds and Bradford area, gathered to do battle using a range of personal qualities and practical skills.

The tournament consisted of three sections: a prepared presentation on the subject of waste management, an unseen task to test their teamwork, and the robot challenge, in which a Lego robot, built and programmed by the team, undertook a series of missions to score as many points as possible. (Special mention here goes to chief roboteer Joseph in Year 9.) The team came second in the teamwork task, scored third place for robot design, and came first in the robot challenge.

After an amazing day, Static Robots brought home the two most coveted trophies of the tournament: Best Team in the robot challenge and Best Team overall. (The trophies are made of Lego!) This victory means that Static Robots will progress to the National stage of the competition in February at Loughborough.



WWI Battlefields Trip

We are looking for sponsors for the WWI Battlefields trip in July. A wreath would be laid on behalf of any individual or company willing to offer a small sponsorship donation. The group will be attending the Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate on 25th July and a British Legion ceremony at Thiepval on 26th July.

Anyone requiring further information about the play or willing to discuss sponsorship should kindly contact Mr Bovington (bovingjd01@horsforthschool.org)

Swimming News

The rearranged individuals Swimming Gala will take place on 19th January and Horsforth will be competing in the March Inter-schools Galas.

On 5th February 2016, there is a trip to Richard Dunn Sports Centre in Bradford for Years 7, 8 and 9 swimmers to enjoy swimming and sliding.

On 19th July, Year 7, 8 and 9 swimmers are invited to a one day aquatic camp at John Charles centre. Mr Bovington has more information on these events. (bovingjd01@horsforthschool.org)

Seventy swimmers participated in November's charity swim and raised a fantastic amount of £3,240 which is another record. Particularly worthy of commendation is Alex a Year 10 swimmer, who raised £487 for Leeds based charity 'Take Heart' although the efforts of all are to be commended.



French Exchange

We are still looking for one Year 9 or 10 pupil to participate in the March visit to France and partner French student, Julie, aged 14. Julie would then visit us in the autumn. Julie is keen to welcome a girl to her home at Conflans or for that matter a boy who could receive a girl on the return leg.

Horsforth Gymnast Represents Great Britain

Year 9 student Will (pictured) has set a British record for the youngest athlete to perform 'The Miller' move in tumbling (gymnastics).

The Miller is a triple twist and double straight move.

Will is also one of the youngest athletes to perform this at the World Championships representing Great Britain which he has just competed in Denmark.



Key Dates including Early Closure Times for Academic Year 2015-16

15 th - 21 st February		Spring mid-term holidays
25 th March	Friday	Good Friday (School closed)
28 th March	Monday	Easter Monday (School closed)
4 th - 17 th April		Easter holidays
2 nd May	Monday	May Bank holiday (School closed)
27 th May	Friday	Year 13 Prom
30 th May - 5 th June		Summer mid-term holidays
13 th June	Monday	Sports Day
24 th June	Friday	Y11 Prom
1 st July	Friday	Training day (School closed)
22nd July	Friday	Early Closure: School will close at 12:30pm
25 th - 27 th July		Training days (School closed)
28 th July - 4 th September		Summer holidays

Yours sincerely,



Dr I K Bothamley
Headteacher