

Horsforth School

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Our Ref: PCB/TRH/JFI

1st March 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

I would like to start by thanking you. We have had some lovely emails and verbal feedback recently so I just wanted to thank you for this, it's massively appreciated and can really give staff a lift! Thank you for your feedback on my attempt at turning the letter into a Podcast, as a result I will continue with the recorded summary and the link is here:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gMCzy4FB0AuRQtXluKMhj8zk5wwbPcFL/view?usp=sharing>

On another note, it's been a brilliant week with lots going on to support Mental Health and Wellbeing. Our students and staff have really thrown themselves into it and a massive thanks to Mrs Bellis and Mrs Nowell for organising. It was great to see the range of activities from Kooth assemblies, active form through to the Leeds Rhinos workshops.

UKMT Intermediate Competition

Congratulations to all the students that recently participated in the UKMT Intermediate Competition. Students from Year 10 and 11 worked through a set of challenging maths problems with the top-scoring students nationally being awarded a Bronze, Silver or Gold certificate. Particular congratulations go to Gilbert, Max, Alexander (Year 10), Caitlin, Riley, Dylan, Lisa and Harry (Year 11) who all achieved a Gold award.

CCF Trip to Altcar Training Camp

Last weekend our Cadets took part in fieldcraft, tactics, navigation and safe weapon handling lessons at Altcar Training Camp near Liverpool. They had fun at laser quest on Saturday night and Sergeant Ferrero-Martos also taught a tactics lesson to younger cadets.



'Opportunity and achievement for all'

Different Week to Normal

This week has been our mental health, wellbeing and safety awareness week. We wanted to give our students the tools to cope with anything thrown at them. They've been able to get involved in anything from dancing, colouring and chatting to hearing from external speakers about really important safety matters. Thank you to everyone that got involved and if you want to [see all the great things our students have been up to visit Instagram.](#)



'Opportunity and achievement for all'

School Dinner Menu

Please click on the link below to view the food on offer for the coming week.

https://docs.google.com/document/d/12jD0WGIYb8jWQ0UJp-3-PFtZ0aX8Mj_zwvDI4DSgwnl/edit

Come and Work at our School

[Take a look at our Vacancies webpage](#) to view the current roles we are recruiting. At the moment we are looking for someone to join our SEND Team as a SEND Practitioner, a Receptionist/Emergency First Aider and a Site Superintendent and Minibus Driver. You can always call the school for a chat about any of the jobs on offer on 0113 2265454. And please share with anyone you think might like to join our team.

Identifying Possible SEND

We always welcome information from parents where there are concerns around a possible SEND need we will always endeavour to help. We are getting an increasing number of requests for information from professionals in other agencies when we have not been made aware of a concern around any possible SEND. We kindly ask that you contact us about any concerns you have around possible SEND before referring for a diagnosis or external support. This will enable us to prepare an informed response when approached for feedback as often the turnaround times are very short and they will expect to have an understanding of presentation in school as well as at home. Please contact your child's form tutor in the first instance who can flag this up with us.

Sports Fixtures

Year 9 Football

We are happy to report that Year 9 Football won 1-0 against Woodkirk this evening in 1/4 Finals of the LSFA Cup. Even though it was a tight game, the boys played some lovely football and should have won a lot more comfortably. Woodkirk didn't even manage a shot on target, our defence and midfield were immense. The Players of the Match were Joe and Alfie who were both outstanding in Central Midfield and controlled the game throughout. Mourinho/Maxwell Masterclass.

Netball

Our Year 8 and Year 10 girls played amazingly well against Prince Henrys and we secured two wins! Year 8 had to dig deep as they are currently in second position in the league table. Miss Schofield and Miss Lancaster really want them to place and get a medal. They worked really hard together as a team, especially as it was the first time they had played competitively together. There were some fantastic debuts on the team and we ended up winning 13-3. The Teacher's Player of the Game was Poppy (captain), and the Player of the Match was Aimee. Year 10 played against a Year 11 team and were triumphant with an extremely high scoring game. Emily and Francy did extremely well and their shooting accuracy were on point. The final score was 31-5 to Horsforth. The Player of the Match was Francy.



'Opportunity and achievement for all'

Sixth Form at Horsforth News

Opportunity to Learn New Skills Outside the Classroom

Thanks to all our students for getting involved in our mental health, wellbeing and safety awareness week. We hope they've learnt some techniques to help in the future when needed. And please remember, our support doesn't stop after this week, they know where we are! [Look what's been on offer on our Instagram.](#)

Yorkshire Post Fame!

We are happy to share that our sixth form Head Students were recently featured in the Yorkshire Post. Their opinion piece talks about our sixth form and those little extra things we do to help our students on their way. Have a read!

Look outside structured learning

Arian Azari & Tiff Enderby

EDUCATION often makes the headlines for one reason or another, but it's rare to hear from those of us directly affected by these discussions. As head students, we think it's important that young people's voices are heard.

With an election expected to happen later this year, political parties have started to share their plans for many areas including education. One party has even suggested a review of the curriculum if they got into power.

We know the curriculum is really important because our sixth form is academic and is the highest performing state school in Leeds, but we also know there's so much that goes on outside of structured learning that has a big impact on our futures too.

We hope this isn't overlooked by politicians and the media.

We feel lucky to go to a sixth form that offers so many non-curricular opportunities. For example, we have many career activities to help us stand out to university decision-

makers and employers. This is especially relevant now. Like so many Year 13s across Yorkshire, many of us are busy trying to get our UCAS applications sorted before the deadline at the end of the month.

Last year, more than 80 per cent of our Year 13s went on to university, but there is a growing number of us taking up higher level apprenticeships in subjects such as engineering, law and accountancy.

We also have a careers and UCAS coordinator who only focuses on our next steps and is available to talk to us about life after sixth form at any time.

In addition to this we can apply for paid roles such as catering assistants working in the sixth form at Horsforth café, cleaning roles and activity camp assistants who support our school holidays camps.

Then, on top of that, we have access to more than 100 enrichment activities, including engineering, drama, choir, the sixth form newspaper, a charity committee and sports. As sixth formers, we also provide mentoring support to younger students.

We are also offered comprehensive pastoral support including a mental health and wellbeing room, a dedicated Mental Health

First Aider and a week focused on mental health. Keeping a healthy mind is something so many young people are challenged by at some point, so we are grateful to have so much help in this area.

As head students, one of our priorities is to increase opportunities such as paid work because we understand the difference they can make to young people.

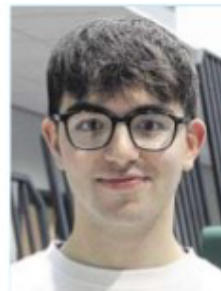
We also know not all 16 and 17-year-old students have access to so many extracurricular activities, but we think they should be an optional addition for some schools.

As we approach the election, we would like to encourage all parties to consider how non-curriculum based learning can be accessible for all.

The more exposure we have to career opportunities, insights, staff who can give us consistent support and activities that practically prepare us for life after post-16 education, the better we will be at making decisions about our future.

We'll also have the skills we need to thrive at the next stage of our studies or employment.

Arian Azari and Tiff Enderby are head students at The Sixth Form at Horsforth.



Yours faithfully,

Dr P Bell
Headteacher

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