

## Horsforth School

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Headteacher: Dr P C Bell

Our Ref: PCB/TRH/JFI

7<sup>th</sup> July 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

I would like to start by thanking you for your patience and support. Our focus on the strike days this week has been to keep learning going and your support has been vital. We have had some errors with how Century Tech has recorded the hours of engagement (it may not have worked perfectly) but students will not be disadvantaged by this, we can still reward based upon other engagement measures. I do apologise if you have received a message in error or this has caused problems, we are working with the company to resolve this in the future.

I don't know of any schools that have taken our approach but I would like to share some impact data because the students in school and at home have worked extremely hard.

On Wednesday, students completed 19,629 'nuggets' (mini lessons that are set by Century Tech after you have completed a diagnostic test) and whilst doing this they answered 173,430 questions with a better than 70% success rate. This is immense! I will only be able to analyse today when it is downloaded tomorrow morning.

The research shows that low stakes tests and feedback based upon them is one of the best ways to make learning solid so this has been really useful for our students.

So, in summary, whilst I would much rather have a normal day in school this has been a success and if we have to cope with disruption going forward we will use a similar strategy. We will address the reporting of time spent and I apologise again if this has caused problems.

### **Important Reminder About the Main Entrance Doors**

A 10 week building project has commenced on the main door entrance to school. This will allow us to extend this area to provide a waiting room space for visitors. This entrance will therefore not be in use again until the new academic year in September 2023.

We will have a small temporary Reception at the Student entrance which will be used by staff and visitors.

**We politely request that during this period parents and carers only come to school if they have an appointment and not to drop off anything that students have forgotten for the day.** If you wish to make an appointment please phone Reception on 0113 2265454.

*'Opportunity and achievement for all'*

## Yorkshire Water Trip

Well done to the Year 10 students who took part in the trip to the Yorkshire Water Treatment Works in Headingley. The team at Yorkshire Water took students on a fascinating tour around the facility so they could see the intricate processes involved in providing our community with clean and safe drinking water first hand. Thank you to Mr Hutchinson for organising the visit!

## Year 8 STEM Day

At the end of June, we were really pleased to welcome ASDA to our school for a 'Girls in Data' day. Students in Year 8 who have chosen to study Computer Science as an option in Year 9 took part. The girls had a jam-packed day learning about encryption, PowerBI, smart devices and AI. The students taking part had a great experience finding out about real-world examples, it got them really excited for September.



## Year 11 Leavers

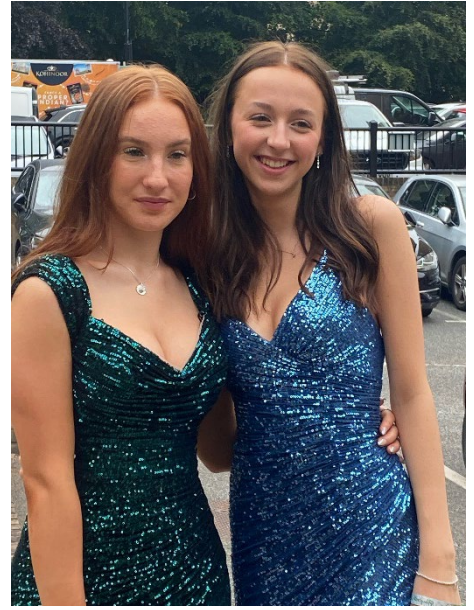
We said a fond farewell to our Year 11 students two weeks ago. It was an emotional morning for all but fantastic to see them open the time capsules they made in Year 7. They found some of them very amusing.



*'Opportunity and achievement for all'*

## Year 11 Prom

It was a fantastic night celebrating at Year 11 Prom with our lovely students. We are so proud of them and can't wait to see a lot of familiar faces joining our Sixth Form in September.



*'Opportunity and achievement for all'*

## **Permission to Leave Class Early Passes, Time Out Passes and Toilet Passes Update**

We have written to give early notice about changes to our systems.

Having students leaving a class early or for time out reasons becomes a safeguarding issue. Students are not supervised when they leave class and we do not have sufficient resources for time out. Students are also missing out on valuable lesson time where there could be other techniques deployed in the classroom that provides students with time out of tasks and space to reset or calm down without leaving the room which is a far better solution.

There are times when some students have abused their time out of class and passes are only issued on a temporary basis, they are not permanent. Students have 8 opportunities to go to the toilet throughout the day and at least one every hour. There should only be rare cases where toilet passes are needed due to medical reasons.

As such, all such passes, including toilet passes will expire at the end of this academic year. Parents and carers will need to apply for a pass for the next academic school year when we arrive back to school in September. School staff will consider your request, but you are not guaranteed a pass. These are school based decisions and you will be notified in September if the pass has been granted.

The application form is below and you will be notified of the decision in September. The form closes on 20th July.

<https://forms.gle/AkcyIDb2kmGJGQBQ8>

Applications will only be considered and an application does not guarantee a pass. Please note that toilet passes will require medical evidence, this can be a note from the GP, a prescription, medicine or other. Details about the medical condition should already be on our SIMs and our first aides are aware of this unless this is a new condition and you have not yet updated the school. Toilet passes will not be issued without medical evidence of need.

Applications for time out passes or leave class early passes will be reviewed by the SENDCo and Deputy Headteacher Pastoral. Students must have either a diagnosed special educational need or exceptional circumstances such as a diagnosed mental health related issue or sudden bereavement.

## **Sports Fixtures**

### Year 8 Cricket

Last week the Year 8 boys went storming into the Semi Final with an assertive 46 run with over Guiseley. Batting first Alfie got us off to a good start, but the match defining innings came from Year 7s Joe and Seth, who smashed a phenomenal 36 to put us way in front.

The Broad and Anderson of Horsforth, Felix and Will bowled beautifully first up and were backed up by Alfie and Oli. A brilliant performance from all, but special mentions to our Year 7 duo of Felix and Seth who led the Year 8s to victory.

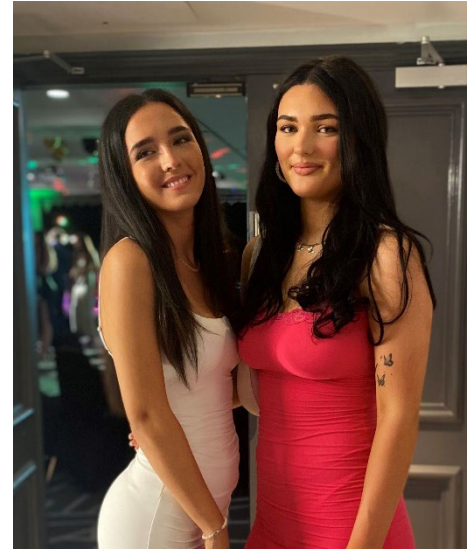
Thank you to Mr Davis for supporting!

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## Sixth Form at Horsforth News

### Year 13 Prom

Our Year 13 students looked wonderful in their prom attire last week. It was a fantastic night and well deserved.



### Neuron Work

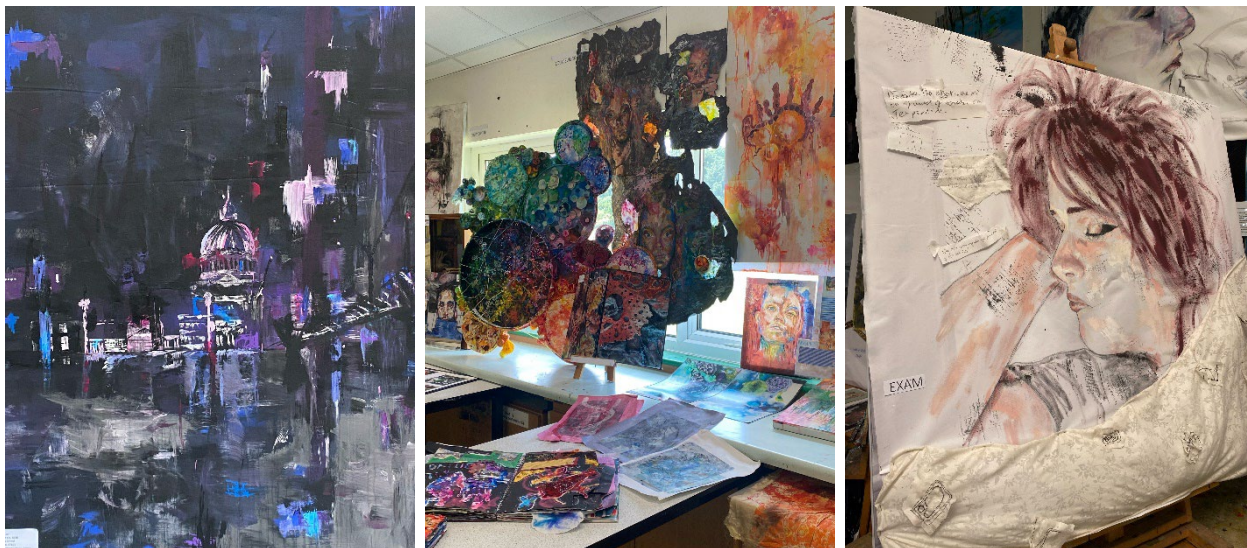
In Mr Watkins' psychology lesson this week students made different types of neurons out of clay, some of them even channelled their inner Patrick Swayze and Demi Moore while doing so!



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## Art Exhibition

Our Year 13 art and photography students had their hard work put on display at our annual art exhibition. There were some truly inspiring pieces to look at and it was lovely to be able to share their work with friends and family. They've been an amazing group to teach and will be very much missed!



Find Out What Goes on at the Sixth Form at Horsforth

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Thank you, as always, for your support.

Yours faithfully

Dr P Bell  
Headteacher

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