

Horsforth School

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Headteacher: Dr P C Bell

Our Ref: PCB/TRH/JFI

8th December 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

As you know we had a visit from Ofsted the week before half term and the report on this will be published on Monday and we will put a link to it on our website. I just wanted to share a few quotes in advance of the report being published which are incredibly positive and we feel really shine a light on why I am so proud to be the Headteacher of Horsforth School.

Quotes from Ofsted's ungraded inspection in October 2023:

- *This school believes in opportunity and achievement for all. It is highly effective in achieving this aim.*
- *Pupils benefit from an expansive choice of courses that prepare them well for their future careers and aspirations.*
- *The school has high expectations for all pupils.*
- *There is an inclusive ethos at the school that supports and challenges pupils to achieve their best.*
- *Pupils study a well-constructed curriculum and are taught by well trained teachers.*
- *Pupils are happy, and they behave well in lessons and around the school.*
- *The curriculum prepares pupils well for future education, employment and training opportunities.*
- *Pupils and students in the sixth form make excellent progress through the curriculum.*
- *Teachers are skilled, well trained and knowledgeable.*
- *Pupils are courteous and polite to teachers and visitors. They are attentive in lessons.*
- *The school prioritises mental health and well-being and has recently become accredited with 'MindMate Friendly' status.*

We have had record results, have been ranked as one of the top 10 schools in the North and we hope to build on this even further in 2024!

Collection of Exam Certificates

All Year 11 and Year 13 students that left school in July 2023 can now collect their exam certificates.

These are important documents which should be kept in a safe place as it is highly likely that colleges, universities and employers will ask to see them.

On average it can cost £50 to replace each certificate that is lost.

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We strongly advise all students to collect their certificates as soon as possible as school is only required to keep them for 12 months from date of issue. Students can pick them up from reception between the hours of 10:00am and 4:00pm.

If students would like to nominate someone to collect their certificates on their behalf, they must send an email from their personal email address to info@horsforthschool.org detailing

- Their name
- The name of the person they have nominated.

The nominated person must

- Bring photographic ID when collecting the certificates
- Sign to confirm collection of the certificates.

UnTangled

Our school production has been a great success this year with 90 students involved in UnTangled – our own version of Rapunzel!

The play included students ranging across all the year groups from Year 7 to Year 13 and it has been brilliant to see them working so well together. Highlights have been the beautiful lantern scene and our own horse puppet, with some amazing acting from our students and slick backstage support from our Sixth Form Team. A massive thanks to the Drama Department and all the students involved!

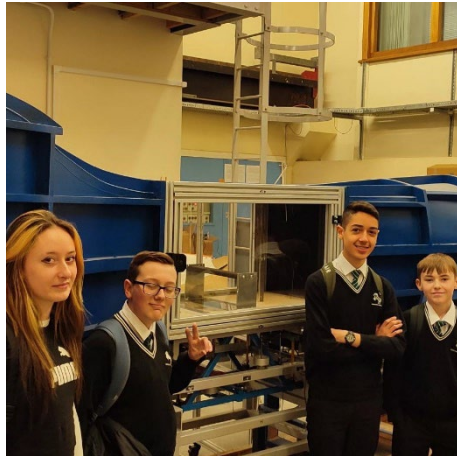


FI in Schools

Last week some of our students visited the University of Leeds to take part in an 'FI in Schools' event. As a part of the machining process, students collected their car, toured the facilities with their student

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ambassadors and participated in a race test. They had some amazing conversations with some very talented students and knowledgeable professors and lecturers, thank you to Mr Dillon for organising the trip!



Vacancies

Very exciting opportunities have arisen for an Exam Invigilator and an Evening Facilities and Lettings Officer, to join Horsforth School. If you are interested in these roles please click on this link <https://www.horsforthschool.org/vacancies/> or call 01 13 2265454 for further details.

SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) Parent/Carer Drop In

Our SEND team in school work to support the education of students who need additional help and support in line with their needs in order to make progress. Whether your child is currently on the SEND register or you are questioning whether they have a potential SEND and there is something you wish to discuss or ask for advice on, we would like to give you the opportunity to do so on a drop-in basis for a 10-15 minute consultation with a member of the team. We trialled this last year and it seemed to work well in the main. This is linked to our continuing drive to improve communication and to supporting even further, our students who need it the most.

We hope this will give parents and carers an opportunity to speak to one of the team who can discuss possible support options with you in a timely manner. Some of our team will be available between 3.30 and 5pm on **Wednesday 13th December**. Staff will direct you to the room(s) allocated for this.

This is still relatively new so please do bear with us whilst we work out how this works best. In order for us to plan for the event, please can you email sendadmin@horsforthschool.org if you wish to attend.

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Please be aware that if we have a high volume of parents and carers wanting to attend we may have to offer an alternative date in addition to this. We will notify you if this is the case.

There is no need to make an appointment for a specific time, just let us know you're coming and drop in! There may be a slight wait as this is a 'drop in' but we will do our best to keep this as short as possible.

Fixtures

National Cup

The Year 11 team stormed into the next round of the National Cup with a convincing 3-1 win over Ackworth Private School.

The first half saw us going into the wind, rain and all the elements, as we struggled to get out of our own half.

The second half saw us with the "better" of the conditions as we hit a different gear. The first goal from Emre was simply outrageous! A bicycle kick that unleashed pandemonium from the entire squad. Hang it in the Louvre, some might say?

Further goals from Oli and another from Emre made light work of the tie and sealed a comprehensive victory. A late consolation goal gave Ackworth hope, but the team soon shut the door and deservedly will go into the next round.

Next up we have St Joseph's and St Bedes in the National Cup, Boston Spa in the Leeds Cup and PHGS in the league. The Player of the Match was Emre.

Sixth Form at Horsforth News

Horsforth Young Achievers Award

We are so proud of Fergus in Year 12 and his older brother Finlay (ex-student) who won the Horsforth Young Achievers Award and turned on the Horsforth Christmas lights on Saturday 2nd December. Congratulations both!



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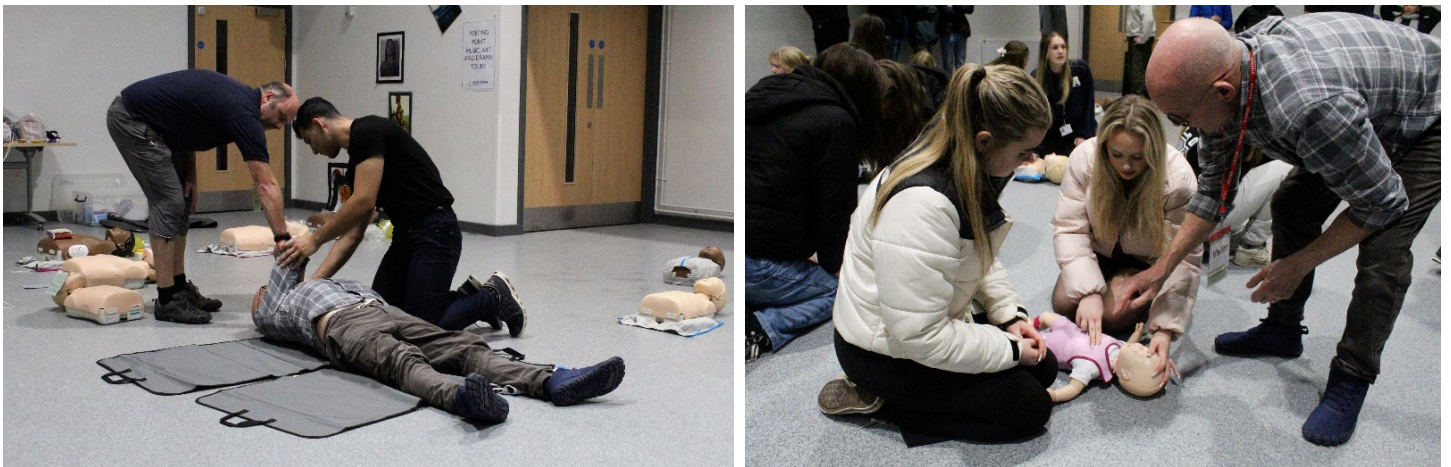
Christmas Production

We love this time of year, because it means our Sixth Form students play a massive part in the Christmas Production...this year Un-Tangled. They've been performing in the cast but also play a pivotal role in the running of the production. Thank you to those involved and good luck for the final performance tonight.



First Aid Course

On Monday our students took timeout from the classroom to learn some vitally important life skills. Thank you to Dr Pickering from Shipley Medical Practice for coming in to teach our sixth formers how to save lives and bandage arms and legs! A fantastic opportunity as part of our enrichment programme.



Sixth Form Applications Are Open

Applications to join our sixth form from September 2024 are now open. Parents of our Year 11 students have been emailed all the details, [be sure to fill in the form as soon as possible](#).

Couldn't Make our November Open Evening?

Don't worry, we have another opportunity to come and look around our sixth form campus on 25th January 2024. [All the details about what to expect on the evening are here >> plus how to register for a free ticket](#).

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Guest Speakers

Our Careers and UCAS Coordinator had two fantastic guest speakers lined up for our students this week. BAM Construction visited to talk about Engineering apprenticeships and Simpson Millar Solicitors talked about routes into Law.



Thank you, as always, for your support, patience and understanding.

Yours faithfully

Dr P Bell
Headteacher

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