



Horsforth School

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Our Ref: PCB/TRH/JFI

12th January 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you all had a wonderful holiday. It's great to see our students and staff returning to school with such enthusiasm and positivity! We are running our second Sixth Form Open Evening on the 25th so please pass this on to any students who may be interested, even students younger than Year 11 may find it interesting and something to aim for. [Register for a free ticket on eventbrite](#). The high expectations and exceptional opportunities are a key part of our continued A Level success so please come along.

Parent Forums

We want to listen to parents to gather your views and will be running some Parent Forums in 2024. If you have time to help us decide how to structure them and what to hold them on please fill in this short form: <https://forms.gle/JB1TmuXL6tpzZ7J16>.

Year 11 Revision Week

We will be running a full week of revision activities and support for our Year 11 students starting on Monday to prepare them for the second round of mock exams in February and ultimately their summer GCSE exams. We will be looking at workshops and holding assemblies on the importance of planning a revision timetable; how to revise using flashcards, blind mind mapping and other techniques, as well as looking at the importance of sleep. Students will then be given the opportunity to create their own bespoke revision timetable which they can then print and stick up in a prominent place for parents to see (and hold them to!) We will be posting updates every day on our school Instagram page, so if you don't already follow us please click on the link: <https://www.instagram.com/horsforthschool/>

Careers at Horsforth School

To continue to enhance our careers provisions for students, we are always keen to hear your feedback and how you would like to be involved in supporting students' exposure to different career opportunities. As part of our improved Careers Website offer, there is now a section where you can go to ask questions, provide your views on the careers offer at Horsforth School or even offer your services to discuss job opportunities and your career pathway to inspire our students!

Please use the link provided or this can be accessed through the specific Careers section of the Horsforth School website.

<https://sites.google.com/horsforthschool.org/horsforth-school-careers/parents-portal/parentcarer-contact-form?authuser=0>

'Opportunity and achievement for all'

Lateness to School and Class – NEW PROCEDURES AND POLICY CHANGE

This is a reminder that our new changes we told you about before Christmas will come into effect on **22nd January** and not straight away to allow a 'soft launch' to students and parents over the coming week. We launched this to students w/c 8th January so they have plenty of warnings to get things right ahead of changes.

I am sure you agree that punctuality is an important skill, but is essential in school for safeguarding purposes. Lateness to school is damaging to the functioning of each classroom, it interrupts activities, learning, assemblies and erodes staff capacity. Students who are late:

- Miss vital whole school information that is shared at the beginning of Form Time.
- Miss out on vital learning from our literacy and character initiatives.
- Are ill-prepared for the day.

It may seem like the odd 5 or 10 minutes of lateness isn't really that much, but for the typical school day of 6.5 hours, a student who is only 10 minutes late every day will miss **30 hours** of school time that year.

Being late to school is breaking a basic requirement of students who attend Horsforth School. It is disruptive. Punctuality forms part of the school rules, the Home-School Agreement, Attendance Policy and Behaviour Policy. Students, who are not on school site by 8.20am, become a safeguarding concern. This means neither school nor parents know where they are and this could indicate that the student is unsafe. Students who are late to class:

- Miss vital bell tasks, starter activities, lesson objectives and the fundamentals to a lesson.
- Disrupt the teacher and the flow of teaching.
- Disrupt the learning of the rest of the class.

We understand that lateness to school is sometimes unavoidable and there are exemplary incidents or circumstances and our policy allows for this. Students are allowed to be late to school twice in a half term without consequence.

However, we cannot continue with the current situation so there will now be consequences for lateness to class other than comments for repeat offenders and an escalation of sanctions for repeat lateness to school. **Please see attached the changes to procedures which come into effect on 22nd January.** Of course, we will offer support for yourselves or your child if you think your child needs this, we ask you contact us ahead of the 22nd January if this is the case. We ask that you contact your child's Pastoral Officer or the Attendance Team at info@horsforthschool.org.

Alongside the obvious safeguarding risks of lateness such as not being on site or being considered missing or not formally supervised, our core business is providing the highest quality teaching and learning. The spike in students being late last term has affected this a great deal. I am therefore hopeful that you will be both supportive of the changes and understanding as to our reasons.

The changes permit the 'odd time' for lateness to school or class without consequence and in doing so is supportive to those students or parents who struggle.

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Come and Work at our School

[Take a look at our Vacancies webpage](#) to view the current roles we are recruiting. 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.

Sports Fixtures

Football:

Year 11 are through to the Quarter Finals of the Leeds Cup, with a 6-0 victory over Boston Spa. 3-0 at half time flattered us somewhat with Harry making some vital saves. The second half saw changes and we went on to comfortably win 6-0.

In the league, we beat Benton Park 1-0 and drew with Lawnswood 2-2. In the first game, Tom scored from a corner in a game which we controlled. The second game was a humbling result as we conceded in the first 30 seconds of the game. Goals from Oli and Emre should have been enough, but a late goal saw us draw the game.

Player of all three games is Ben who scored a top bins screamer, was solid in defence and had an all-round solid three matches.

Next up we have St Mary's in the league cup and face a home tie in the National Cup.

Netball:

We also had a netball fixture against Morley on Tuesday night, the results were as follows:

U13 - Horsforth 15 - 0 Morley

U14 - Horsforth 5 - 21 Morley

Well done to all students who took part!

Sixth Form at Horsforth News

Don't Miss Our Final Open Evening – 25th January

If current Year 11 students didn't make it to our Sixth Form Open Evening in November, this is your last chance to visit our campus ready for September. Plus bring your friends from other local schools, the more the merrier! [Register for a free ticket on Eventbrite.](#)

Yours faithfully

Dr P Bell
Headteacher

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