

## Horsforth School

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Headteacher: Dr P C Bell

Our Ref: PCB/TRH/JFI

12<sup>th</sup> July 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we go into the final week of the school year I am hoping for good weather for our students next week who will be taking part in their Rewards Day. It is fantastic to reward so many students after their hard work this year, so whether it's fun in school or going to a theme park we hope they have a great time.

As usual, the link to the Podcast version is here:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1RXjONmlv5XUhZJmVlvBRS7pghgxPcsBr/view?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1RXjONmlv5XUhZJmVlvBRS7pghgxPcsBr/view?usp=drive_link)

### Challenge 30

Last Friday saw all our students and staff take part in our annual Enterprise Fair to raise money for Candlelighters. Form groups worked hard to put together their stalls and we had such a fantastic variety including tug of war, sweet pong, limbo, penalty shootout, human fruit machine and many more! Students were a credit to themselves during the fair and a great time was had by all. The Enterprise Fair raised over £4000 so thank you to everyone for their contributions.



### China Trip... Continued

Over in China the excitement continues! Our students have had a few exciting cultural activities after their language lessons in the mornings. They've learnt a Chinese song and attended a palm fibre weaving workshop together with their peers. Then they headed to a shopping square to learn how to do the square dance! They've really enjoyed communicating with the locals and had a lovely shopping trip to a big mall to buy gifts. The students took part in a Chinese dough modelling session and made lots of lovely

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pandas! They've also learnt some basic Tai Chi movements. In the evening, our students did some great performances in the Chinese and British students concert. They were very confident on the stage to show their talent, so well done Year 9s! [There are some lovely reels on Instagram that have been sent from China if you want to see more!](#)



## Spanish Sunshine

The sun shone for our Year 9 and 10 Spanish students when they went on a trip to northern Catalonia last week. [You can see what they got up to on Instagram.](#)



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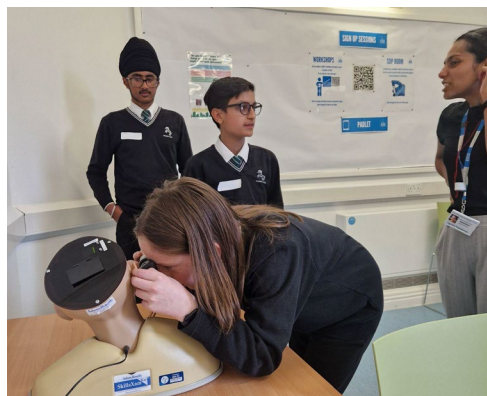
## I Belong Event

Our Year 8 computer science students had a great day at the 'I Belong Event'. Here's what Rayann had to say: 'It was a great experience for young girls to educate themselves on how computing education can benefit them in the far future. It was a fantastic way to let us use our own imagination and communicate amongst ourselves to create different types of codes. We were lucky to tour around Leeds Beckett University and see all the resources they had on offer. In the competition, as a group, we programmed our Bit:Bots to complete an obstacle course and a race using a remote control. We were against other schools seeing who could win each challenge. Overall, I think it was a good way to learn different skills in computer science.'



## Thinking About the Future

Our Year 9 budding medics got out of the classroom and went to the University of Leeds for 'A Career in Medicine' event. Aimed at younger students who are still in the early stages of their career planning process, it gave our students a great insight into what a medical career entails.



## Last Day of Term

The last day of this term and academic year is Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2024 for all students and on that day, a series of celebration assemblies and activities will take place. **School will close for students after these assemblies at approximately 12:10pm.** Any student entitled to free school meals will be able to pick up a sandwich at break should they wish to do so.

## 2024-2025 Term Dates

Please see below a link to the 2024-2025 term dates: <https://www.horsforthschool.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Horsforth-School-Term-Dates-2024-25.pdf>

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## Changes to our Positive Behaviour Policy for September 2024

Whilst many aspects of our Positive Behaviour Policy and procedures have evolved over the years, we have retained the same low level escalation process (verbal warning, comments and phase 4 classroom removal) since its introduction to the school in 2002. We had a major review of the procedures in 2013, whilst we changed some aspects then, we kept this element.

This year we have reviewed our procedures and believe it is the right time to make adjustments to the system and the Positive Behaviour Policy with the aim of meeting the universal needs of young people today, taking into account recent training around relational practice. We are therefore making some changes to the positive behaviour procedures for September 2024.

The changes include how we reward students and how teachers will apply the low level escalation process and detention setting.

This change also coincides with a move to Class Charts for September 2024, which is our new online system for managing behaviour, rewards and sanctions as well as homework and parental communication for those areas it covers. We have already informed you about this in the past few letters. Therefore, this seems the perfect time to make adjustments to our policy and procedures as some of our systems would need to be altered for Class Charts too.

We have spent this week talking through the changes with all students in years 7-10 using in-depth assemblies to explain the rewards and sanctions system, how class charts will be used by staff, parents and themselves. Students as well as parents will be able to download the Class Charts app to their phones, although this is not compulsory.

Please see an outline of the changes below. We thank you in advance for your support and patience with us.

### Main changes to the rewards system:

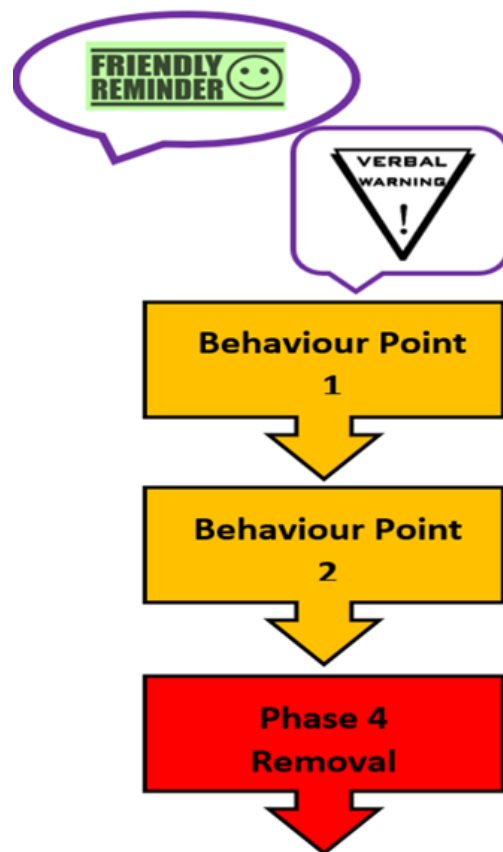
- We are moving away from the planner as a vehicle for rewards, so there will be no stamps
- Next year students will be awarded electronic rewards points on Class Charts
- These will be awarded by any adult in school and link to our character builders
- Students will be awarded up to 6 points per teacher or adult or per activity
- You will see these points in 'real-time' as they are awarded, by which staff and why via your Class charts App
- We will retain the purple awards slips as an instant and tangible award
- A new certificate and new short term rewards system based on points accumulation will be introduced for next year. More to follow.

### Main changes to the classroom escalation process:

- There will be no written negative comments or behaviour comments in the planner. These will be recorded online, and you can see this on the Class Charts App.
- **There will be no detentions recorded or dates of detentions in the planner.** These will be recorded online, and you can see this on the Class Charts App.
- Students will be able to download an App for Class Charts, they too can monitor their own behaviours, detentions. The App must only be used at home (before or after school).

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- We have added an additional step to the low level escalation process (verbal warning, comments and phase 4 classroom removal).
- The additional step is a 'friendly reminder' before the verbal warning: see the below diagram of the new look system. Therefore, students now have two chances to modify unwanted behaviours for the classroom ahead of any consequence. We have added this step to support students, allow take up time and utilise some aspects of relational practise guidance.
- The 1<sup>st</sup> behaviour comment that would normally go in the planner following a verbal warning, will be the 1<sup>st</sup> behaviour point on class charts, and the same for the 2<sup>nd</sup> behaviour comment, which will also be on class charts.
- Students will be issued a small yellow card when they receive a behaviour point. The card will be placed on the desk discreetly as possible. This is to remind them they have a point (this is important because students will no longer have a visual of their negative points as they are no longer in their planner). The card has been designed to give self- help; it has tips or strategies on it for the student to choose so as to help them to not escalate their behaviours and encourages regulation.
- Parents will receive a notification of any behaviour points on the Class Charts app in real time.
- If a student reaches the phase 4 classroom transfer stage, parents will receive a detention notification for this and a date via the Class Charts app.
- Parents will be notified of all behaviour detentions via the Class Charts app from September.



### **Main changes on the student planner:**

Students will still get a new planner in September and this will be used for homework organisation, information storage, notes, whiteboard and is vital for staff communication with the first aid room etc. The planner must still be brought everyday as it is still central to other systems.

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## **Parent and Student App:**

In September we will provide you with information about how you log into the Class Charts app and we will send you codes for the App so that you can access only your child's data. We have produced a handy Class Charts parent guide which can be accessed here:

<https://www.horsforthschool.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/Class-Charts-Parent-Guide.pdf>

On our return in September, we will have a soft launch with students and staff for 2 weeks to allow systems and changes to embed and for us all to adapt.

Next Friday, I will share a video presentation by Mrs Nowell who will explain the changes in more detail.

In addition, we will write to you in September with dates of a parental drop -in session with school leaders where you can ask any questions you may have about changes and there will be a presentation at school should you wish to hear more.

The updated Positive Behaviour Policy will be on the website from September and we will update you via in the Friday letter about the procedures as we go into the Autumn term.

## **School Meal Prices**

After careful consideration, we are having to increase the cost of school meals as a result of significant rises in the cost of ingredients, energy and the minimum wage. From September 2024 the new price of a main hot meal will rise from £2.50 to £2.75. We are committed to providing a high-quality catering provision and have benchmarked across several schools to ensure we are still providing value for money to parents.

We will continue to offer lower priced items such as paninis at £2.15, sandwiches at £1.40 and jacket potatoes from £1.60. As a result of the increase, the free school meal allowance will increase from £3.40 to £3.75.

## **Facial Recognition**

If you have consented for your child to be able to use facial recognition but they have not yet had their picture taken, this will take place on the 17th or 18th July in school. If you have not consented, your child will need to keep their existing lunch card which they will be able to use on the new system.

## **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/1kr3tdnKUhOBtjmdyT\\_hrguBMzeoFcgxcAokkRYSIGvc/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1kr3tdnKUhOBtjmdyT_hrguBMzeoFcgxcAokkRYSIGvc/edit?usp=sharing)

- 1. Please note menus may be subject to change due to product availability.*
- 2. Please note some of the products we serve may contain peanuts, tree nuts, soy, milk, eggs and wheat. While we take steps to minimise the risk of cross-contamination, we cannot guarantee that any of our products are safe to consume for people with peanut, tree nut, soy, milk, egg or wheat allergies.*
- 3. Please note we will make every reasonable effort to ensure that the information provided is accurate; however, due to the very nature of food production there can be variations in each meal. As a school we are not able to provide 100% accurate information on the food we serve.*

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## **Fixtures**

### Dance

Huge congratulations to our KS3 dance students who took part in a Dance competition this week, continuing our fundraising for Candlelighters. Staff and parents were absolutely blown away by their talents and it was great to see how much effort had gone into their performances! Special mentions to our winners:

- Evie in Year 9 who came 1st in her solo.
- Flo, Amelia and Romilly in Year 8 who came 1st in their trio.
- Grace in Year 9 who was awarded with 'best performer' award.
- Flo, Amelia, Romilly, Isabelle and Holly in Year 8 who were awarded 'best costume' award.
- Grace and Sophia in Year 9 who were awarded 'judges choice' award.

A fantastic effort by all involved! Thank you to all the staff, students and parent support!

## **Sixth Form at Horsforth News**

### Round Up

As the year draws to a close our Year 12 students enjoyed their rewards day this week. They went to Alton Towers, the Trafford Centre or to the coast for a day. Then next week they are all doing their work experience placements. Yesterday some of our budding medics and dentists, had the opportunity to tap into the knowledge and expertise of a representative from the Clinical Sciences Department at the University of Leeds, before their UCAT (University Clinical Aptitude Test) in the summer!



Yours faithfully,

Dr P Bell

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