

Horsforth School

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Our Ref: PCB/TRH/JFI

15th March 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

It was a pleasure to see the engagement of our students and staff with World Book Day, the costumes, the cakes, the creative writing so thank you to all who threw themselves into it!

Here is the link to the Friday letter podcast summary: https://drive.google.com/file/d/185bBLC-VvIWGG8G7BXMhsKkfjv7sWYAF/view?usp=drive_link

Parents Evening Format Survey

Thank you for the 321 responses so far. If you do have 15 seconds to give us your views on our parents evening format this I would appreciate it. The google form has only two questions: The Year group of your child and "I would prefer parents' evenings to be: online/in person/I don't mind". There is no hybrid option as this is very difficult to put into practice. Our decision to stay with in-person meetings or to go online will depend on this. Even if you don't mind please respond so we can gather the biggest cross section of views as possible, you can do more than one response if you have children in different Years. The survey will close on the 21st. Thank you!

Parents evening poll: <https://forms.gle/2mTjhg8bS3udiduX7>

Leeds City Council Travel Survey

What travel and safety issues do you face in your local area? Now's your chance to have your say!

Leeds City Council want to hear from residents in Adel and Wharfedale, Guiseley and Rawdon, Horsforth, Otley and Yeadon on any issues related to travel in your community. This could be about how you access public transport facilities, whether you feel unsafe walking, wheeling or cycling, the attractiveness of a street, or where traffic and speeding are causing issues.

The consultation is live until Sunday 7 April and it's easy to have your say – drop a pin on the maps where you're experiencing issues and fill in the survey. This will help prioritise improvements, when funding becomes available. To find out more and take part visit <https://bit.ly/3VdEGdw>

Ramadan - Fasting and Physical Education at Horsforth School

As a school we fully recognise that fasting during the month of Ramadan is the fourth Pillar of Islam; an act of worship of great spiritual, moral and social significance for Muslims. We aim to be supportive and empathetic at this spiritual time.

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Our procedures have been devised with reference to the following two publications: Towards Greater Understanding – Meeting the needs of Muslim pupils in state schools, Information & Guidance for Schools. The Muslim Council of Britain (www.mcb.org.uk) Safe Practice in Physical Education, Sport & Physical Activity. Association for Physical Education (www.afpe.org.uk)

- During Ramadan, all Muslim pupils will be expected with reasonable adjustments where necessary, to take part in Physical Education, for the following three reasons:
 - a) Muslims are encouraged not to use Ramadan as an opportunity to avoid aspects of normal life, but rather to cope with normal life under a different set of guidelines.
 - b) All children have an entitlement to access a meaningful PE programme that meets the requirements of the National Curriculum while seeking to respect any religious or cultural sensitivities involved wherever possible.
 - c) The Muslim Council of Britain states that “the majority of pupils who are fasting are able to take part in most physical activities during Ramadan without putting themselves at risk or danger”
- PE staff appreciate that during fasting, normal energy resources may become depleted, and the risk of dehydration is increased. As a result, PE staff will ensure that intensity levels in activities may need to be lowered to a point where fasting students may continue to participate safely, and will remain responsive to students’ needs during Ramadan
- PE staff and parents should encourage pupils who are fasting to speak to their PE teacher as soon as possible if they feel that the intensity level in their lesson needs reducing and PE staff will listen and adapt
- Parents of fasting pupils must write a note in the planner should they want a complete withdrawal from the lesson, we want to support and recognise that in certain circumstances such as menstruation for girls and illness that taking part may not be the best for health at that time. Students who do not take part will still be expected to remain in the lesson as observers or helpers.
- If there is no request to withdraw from parents, students will be expected to take part in PE with reasonable adjustments.

KS3 Homework

Thank you for giving your views on the new homework system that has been introduced in Year 7 and Year 8. It is really positive to see that you feel students are now regularly receiving homework and they are able to complete this independently with the support of their knowledge organisers.

The knowledge organisers and homework tasks are closely linked to our curriculum that students study at Horsforth School and have been designed by our Curriculum Leaders. Sometimes, the homework tasks may link to prior learning to ensure students are revisiting topics they have done earlier in the year to support longer term retention, or it may link to pre-learning, to support students in future lessons.

Please see a link below to the Learning Scientist website where you can find out more about this:
<https://www.learningscientists.org/blog/2016/8/18-1>

We very much agree that students need to be praised and rewarded with credit stamps and pink slips for their efforts with homework and this has been addressed with all staff.

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Term Dates 2024-25

Please find below the updated term dates for next academic year shared in last week's Parent letter – please accept our apologies for an error that appeared in last weeks' letter – the Autumn 2 term ends on Friday 25 October as shown below (not 23 October).

Term	Half term starts	Half term ends
Autumn 1	Monday 2 September 2024*	Friday 25 October 2024
Autumn 2	Monday 4 November 2024	Friday 20 December 2024
Spring 1	Monday 6 January 2025	Friday 14 February 2025
Spring 2	Monday 24 February 2025	Friday 4 April 2025
Summer 1	Tuesday 22 April 2025	Friday 23 May 2025
Summer 2	Monday 2 June 2025	Tuesday 22 July 2025

Contacting School – Logging in Issues

Please can we request that all issues with logging into school accounts, especially the Parent Sims App are sent to parentlogons@horsforthschool.org (please be aware the email address is NOT parentlogins@horsforthschool.org).

Examination Policy

Please find here a link to our school [Examination Policy](#) which details our systems and processes for the conduct of internal and external exams. The frequently asked questions section contains some useful information and guidance for both parents and students.

FIRST® LEGO® League Challenge

This week five of our students took part in the FIRST® LEGO® League challenge at the University of Bradford. They had to do a presentation, team building exercises and build a robot to solve problems and take on challenges. They have been preparing since September and represented our school fantastically.



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Football Success

We are thrilled to hear that Isaac and Jamie in Year 7 are representing their academy team, Pro Elite Academy in a football tournament at Easter. Good luck boys!

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/1qXYaKYAiEfItOy-7NIAW3xnqhLb6xdmHzk0YQXI EowE/edit?usp=sharing>

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 us as a Leader of Learning English for KS3 and a Leader of Learning English for KS5. You can always call the school for a chat about any of the jobs on offer on 0113 2265454. Please share with anyone you think might like to join our team.

Fixtures

Rugby

Year 7 and 8 travelled away to Ilkley on Tuesday for a rugby fixture, with the Year 7s losing an extremely competitive game 5 tries to 3 and the Year 8s winning 7 tries to 5. The Year 7s were outstanding with some boys playing in a competitive fixture for the first time, special mentions to Alex, Joe and Joe. The Player of the Match was Tom who was like a prime Richard Hill circa 2003 with his work at the breakdown. The Year 8's win was an outstanding result as Ilkley are a rugby school, Isaac and Jay were both excellent but the Player of the Match was Gregg with a committed and skilful performance.

The Year 9 and 10s played at home to Ilkley on Thursday night. Year 9 drew 12-12 however Year 10 lost in the last play of the game 24-21. The boys were gutted as they deserved the win. Fin and Stan played fantastic but Rayon was the Player of the Match.

Girls Football

The U14 girls travelled to Ralph Thorsby to play in a tournament and were unbeaten on the night. We were the best team and the only team to beat them! Thanks to Mr Burton and Mr Kelly for their work with the girls this year, it is clearly paying off. Great results, 1 goal conceded and 8 scored. The Player of the night was Joely who scored 7!

Horsforth 0-0 Temple Moore

Horsforth 1-1 Benton Park

Horsforth 2-0 Abbey Grange

Horsforth 1-0 Ilkley Grammar

Horsforth 2-0 Ralph Thoresby

Horsforth 2-0 Boston Spa

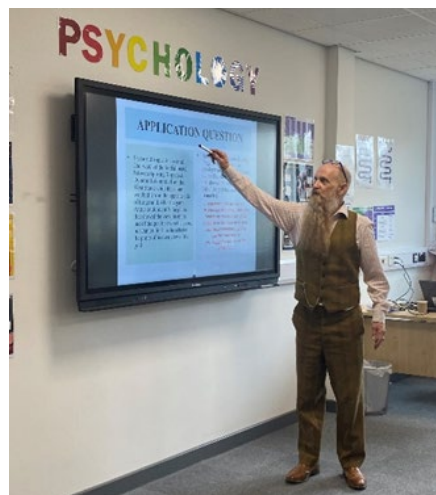
Sixth Form at Horsforth News

External Speaker

On Wednesday we welcomed lead examiner Jean-Marc Lawton who ran a psychology workshop.

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Our Year 13 students will benefit from his knowledge at such a crucial moment in their studies and our Year 12 students can take his insight and carry it into Year 13. A great opportunity, so thank you Mrs Hornsby.



World Book Day

A little late, but our Sixth Form Team made a special effort for World Book Day. Their fancy dress made our students smile!



Yours faithfully,

Dr P Bell
Headteacher

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