



Horsforth School

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Headteacher: Dr P C Bell

Our Ref: PCB/TRH/JFI

15th September 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

Thank you for your calm understanding after the Leeds wide issue yesterday. The day in school was incredibly calm and normal as we just ensured our entry to, and exit from site was secure. The information we had was from Leeds City Council who informed us that there was a credible threat to all Leeds Schools, further information is that there had been threats to specific schools also. We were not one of these schools and none of the schools in our area were affected.

A subsequent police statement is that there has been an arrest linked to this and that the risk is not now thought to be credible.

I know it must cause worry, particularly when information is not available (I have shared all I know) so I just want to thank you for carrying on as normal and to assure I will always put the safety and wellbeing of my students and staff first.

Early Closure 5th October

We would like to remind you that the school will close for all students in Years 7-13 at 12:10 on Thursday 5th October. This is to enable us to prepare the school for Open Evening. If your child is eligible for a free school meal they will be able to collect a cold lunch or use their allowance at break time.

When should I keep my child off school?

Since COVID 19 it has been more difficult than ever for parents to make a decision on when to send their child to school if they are feeling ill. The NHS states "It's fine to send your child to school with a minor [cough](#) or [common cold](#). But if they have a fever, keep them off school until the fever goes."

For more information please see this NHS guidance. <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

Positive Behaviour Policy and Changes to Systems

There have been some changes to some rules around detentions and Inclusions.

Please do read through the policy, by clicking the link: www.horsforthschool.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Positive-Behaviour-Policy-2023-2024.pdf

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Specific things to highlight are:

- We hold detentions every night of the week this year, you will be notified in the planner and with 24 hours' notice.
- 5 Detentions in a half term will equate to a day in inclusion.
- Students that are in a toilet cubicle with another student will be issued a detention. We cannot permit or allow more than 1 student in a cubicle for safeguarding reasons and this is really just not appropriate.

Lost Property

All of next week students will get a chance to look through our lost property to reclaim items that were misplaced last year.

The Hall will be open all week and any remaining items will be going to support charities with school uniform – we also keep some back to support those families with financial difficulties.

School Timetables and Option choices

All students have received their new school timetable. We strongly suggest that they **do not transfer** these into their planner until they have been through one full 2-week cycle of their timetable in case of any changes. If there are any issues with a student's timetable they should firstly speak to their form tutor.

If parents/carers need to contact school regarding timetables or changes to option choices (Students in Year 9, 10 or 12 only) then they should email info@horsforthschool.org and mark the email FAO Mrs Wright who will deal with your query for you. Please be aware that the deadline for option changes is Friday 29 September. Changes can only be made after this time in exceptional circumstances and can only be done so in agreement with Mrs Wright and relevant Subject Leaders.

Please remember that parents/carers can also see timetables (as well as behaviour, attendance and progress data) throughout the year using the Parent Sims App - if you need any additional support with accessing this App, please email the Data Support Team in school.

Sims Parent App

The SIMS Parent app is a secure online service designed to provide a convenient way for sharing information with parents. This clear and easy-to-use app will enable you to see accessible information about your child in real time, to help support them in their learning. You can view timetables and term dates, attendance and homework, achievement points and detention information, and termly progress review reports. You can also check and amend the personal data in the Data Collection tile, removing the need to email the school with changes to address, phone number or email address of contacts. Look out for an email from noreply@sims.co.uk with your log-in details very soon. The joining process is very simple, but you can email us at ParentLogons@horsforthschool.org if you have any queries.

Medical and Time Out Passes

Thank you for the applications, we are rolling out the new passes over this week and next week. Please

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note these will be reviewed and are not permanent.

Uniform and Jewellery

We 'sweat the small stuff' and this includes the basics such as incorrect uniform. We have high standards and making sure our basics are right is vital for all other systems to run effectively. There are some students blatantly breaking the policy by not wearing full length black trousers, trainers and jewellery which is prohibited and this is in spite of our reminders to parents and students ahead of the summer break.

A reminder that any jewellery confiscated now, will not be given back till the end of term.

Home School Agreement

A reminder that when you accept your child's place at Horsforth School you automatically enter into our home school agreement. This is a policy and can be found here.

www.horsforthschool.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Home-School-Policy-2023.pdf

We very much want to work in partnership with parents and where this happens we provide the best outcomes for our students.

We very much need parental support of our systems.

Lockers

We have allocated lockers to all Year 7 students (whose parents have paid through ParentPay) via their Form Tutor. If you have paid and your child is still without a locker please ask them to go to Student Reception any break time and a member of the Facilities Team will help them.

If your child is in Y8 to Y11 and has a query about their existing locker please ask them to also go to Student Reception at break to speak to a member of the Facilities Team.

Sports Fixtures

Year 11 Football

Last night we had the first league fixtures for Year 11 and we got off to a solid start. We beat Guiseley 1-0 and drew with Ilkley 1-1. Alec will claim he was shooting but his cross somehow nestled in the top corner against IGS... Emre was back amongst the goals with a delightful touch against Guiseley.

Both games we were in control and we should have walked away with all 6 points. However, IGS and Guiseley are two very good sides and have 4 points on the board! The Player of the Match was Tom.

The lads are a really good group and it's a good talking point for many of them. We have entered them into the National Cup and our first game is two weeks on Thursday at Ripon Outwood Academy. They are a very talented group!

Connect with Us

We love to share good news stories about our students. So, if your son or daughter is in Years 7 to 11, connect with us to see some of the trips, events and activities they will experience this year.

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Sixth Form at Horsforth News

First Trip of the Year

Today our Year 13 biologists are off on the first sixth form trip of the year. Their visit to Boggle Hole on the North Yorkshire coast will involve fieldwork in the morning, followed by lunch on the beach. Then there will be some data analysis in the afternoon with a walk to Robin Hood's Bay for fish and chips. What a lovely way to kick off the year!

At the end of an interesting week with plenty of drama I can reflect on the fact that despite the media furore, learning was not affected and the vast majority of our students, as always, have been giving their personal best in every lesson.

Thank you for your support, patience and understanding.

Yours faithfully

Dr P Bell
Headteacher