



## Horsforth School

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Headteacher: Dr P C Bell

Our Ref: PCB/TRH/JFI

15<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we move into the last week of term I want to thank and praise our fantastic students. It's a long term full of sniffles and dark mornings so the fact that we still have the vast majority of our students giving 100% every day is something I am always grateful for. I would also like to say how wonderful the production was last week. Mrs Kendal put on a wonderfully creative and professional show where our students really showed how talented they are.

### **Non-Uniform and Festive Jumper Day – 22nd December**

We are delighted to announce that we will be continuing our support for the “Save the Children” charity by asking students and staff to wear a non-uniform with a festive jumper to school on Friday 22nd December. The jumper does not have to be festive, it could be plain, striped or patterned, or students can simply opt for full non-uniform. We ask that all students and staff donate £1 to the charity for taking part and we will collect this donation during the morning period.

This will be the fourth year we have signed up to participate in this national event, it really brings our students and staff together as a team and we successfully raise over £1000 each year by doing so. The money raised helps to protect and support children around the world who are missing out on the basics such as food, clean water, education and healthcare.



### **Last Day of Term – 22nd December**

As advertised on our main school calendar **on the last day of term school closes for all students earlier at 12.25pm.**

Students will be able to purchase lunch and brunch items at break and spend their free school meal allowance on food to eat at break time or food to take home.

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Students will have extended Christmas assemblies on this day and have some much-needed cheer and fun to end the term. It is a chance to celebrate their achievements and to come together to reflect and participate.

We hope that they enjoy the celebrations and we set the tone for a lovely break.

### **Uniform and Jewellery**

More students are pushing boundaries on uniform as we close the end of term. 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, and wearing trainers and jewellery which are prohibited and this is in spite of our reminders and checks.

A reminder that any jewellery confiscated now, will not be given back till the end of term. Please ensure your child is in shoes and not trainers. If for any reason you are struggling with cost of uniform please do contact the school, the Pastoral Officer for your child's year group will be happy to help.

### **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.

<https://www.horsforthschool.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/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 need parental support of our systems.

### **Late to School**

Unfortunately, there has been a rise in the numbers of students late to school, arriving after 8.20am.

We urge parents to ask their child to set off walking earlier when the weather is inclement as we know this can affect walking time and car journeys.

We cannot accept that students that are only a little bit late should not be sanctioned. Arriving after 8.20am is considered late and is our school policy. Lateness occurs at 8.20am or after. For a system to work fairly there has to be a cut off point for lateness and 8.20am is our cut off. All schools have to have a set time which is adhered to.

Our registers are legal documents and we need a set, unchanging, cut-off point for this reason. We also need to operate a late policy for 1700 students and as such we need to be fair to all students and parents and have the same rule regardless of circumstances. It is for this reason that we do not allow grey areas with punctuality, we have to be black and white.

We are empathetic in our punctuality policy, we recognise and accept there are times students may be late and for reasons beyond their control. That is why we allow students twice in a half term to be late without a consequence.

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We look forward to a new start in the new year where we hope all students will respect our start times and not disrupt learning and classes due to lateness.

### **Student Timetables**

Due to new teaching staff joining Horsforth School in January, some student's timetables will change slightly from Monday 8th January onwards. This may mean they have a new teacher for some or all of a particular subject's lessons, or may have a new room for some lessons. Some students may not be affected by the changes at all but in order to support those students who are, we will be providing all students from Year 7 to 13 with a paper copy of their new timetable for the new term next week during tutor time on Wednesday. Please support them making any appropriate changes to the timetable in their planner in preparation for the new term.

### **Rewarding Attitude to Learning**

As we approach the end of term, we as a school want to take the opportunity to celebrate the excellent attitude to learning shown by so many of our students so far this year. In the coming week we will be texting the parents/carers of the top 20 average ATL scoring students from each year group (our 'ATL Superstars') as well as the most improved 10 students in the year group too. As well as a text home and a place on the ATL Superstars board in school, these students will also receive a queue jump pass (Year 7-11) or a Common Grounds voucher (Year 12 and 13) to reward them for their continued efforts in school. These students will also take part in a special celebratory assembly in the new year. Students who have gained the exceptional standard of an average ATL of 6 (the 'Super Six' students) in Year 12 and 13 and those with an average ATL of 5 or above (the 'Fab Five' students) in Year 7-11 will also receive a text home as well as a reward in the new year (more information will be shared with students once we return after Christmas). We continue to be impressed with the fantastic attitude of so many of our students and look forward to them continuing to 'Strive for 5' in the new year.

### **Year 9 Cadet Success**

The Cadets had a brilliant time on their Range Day at Strensall Barracks on Tuesday. Cadet Anna from Year 9 achieved the standard of "marksman" on her first ever live shoot. Congratulations Anna and thank you to Mr Allison for organising the trip.

### **Vacancies**

Very exciting opportunities have arisen for a Teacher of Science, 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 0113 2265454 for further details.

### **Fixtures**

#### Monday:

Our Year 11 Football Team were the definition of sluggish but still came away with a victory against PHGS.

With a depleted squad we were down to the bare bones and with no subs, we snatched a last minute winner. Dom whipped in a last minute corner and Luke leapt like a salmon to power his header into the net.

The Player of the Match goes to Ben who was outstanding as Left Back. Special mention to Will with a fantastic goal line clearance.

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### Tuesday:

Our Netballers smashed it on Tuesday, with the Under 14s team beating Guiseley 13-6. The Player of the Match was Alice. Our Under 13s team beat Guiseley 13-0. The Player of the Match was Holly.

### Thursday:

The Year 7 Football Girls won 3-1. The Player of the Match was Allegra who got stuck into a tough battle and sealed the game with a great assist.

The Year 11 team have gone into the 6th round of the National Cup with a marvellous victory over St Bede's and St Joseph's. The first half saw us dominate from the first minute. Luke beat his man on numerous occasions and Emre was clinical as ever to take us in at 2-0. The watching staff departed for parents' evening and all seemed to be going to plan...

However, the second half saw a different narrative, with St Bede's bringing it back to 2-2. But, a tame long ball was not dealt with by their keeper and Emre pounced for his 3rd goal to make it 3-2! Sadly, we did not see the game out and St Bede's came back to make it 3-3 and take it to penalties.

We missed our first penalty and the realisation of letting a 2-0 lead slip, seemed to be on the cards. However, once again, Harry had different ideas and stepped up with some fine keeping to allow Oscar to slide the final and ultimately winning penalty into the net.

Special mentions have to go to Max who showed his class in the middle of the park. Luke was a constant threat throughout, and Emre scored all 3 of our goals and deservedly was Player of the Match.

### ***Sixth Form at Horsforth News***

#### Media Taster Day

Thanks to Leeds Trinity University for hosting our Year 12 and 13 media students. They took part in a number of media and journalism taster sessions and heard all about career opportunities for the future.



### Sixth Form Newspaper

Sixth Form students write and edit the school newspaper as part of their enrichment. Now in its second year, we're delighted to be able to share this with you. A massive well done to all the students involved with the writing and editing of the paper. [To read it, please click this link.](#)

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### 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](#).

### Final Sixth Form Open Evening

Our final open evening for this academic year will be in January for those wanting to join our sixth form next year. [Register for a free ticket on eventbrite](#).

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

Yours faithfully

Dr P Bell  
Headteacher