

Horsforth School

Lee Lane East Horsforth
Leeds LS18 5RF

Tel: 0113 226 5454

Fax: 0113 226 5401

Email: info@horsforthschool.org

Website: www.horsforthschool.org

Headteacher: Dr P C Bell

Our Ref: PCB/TRH/JFI

19th July 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

I would like to start our final letter of the year by thanking you for your feedback, support and patience over the 2023/24.

As I have returned from the China trip I just wanted to formally thank Mrs Comiskey and Mrs Nowell for running the school in my absence and just say what an amazing experience it was. I don't think I have been on a more organised (well done Mrs Zhang), exciting and stimulating trip. Thank you to Mr Hitchman, Mrs Qu and Miss Lui for giving up 2 weeks to go and a massive well done to the 43 wonderful students, it was amazing!

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

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1S9pwua128mPgYpTwiXW2Nf8J7tatZYvb/view?usp=sharing>

Challenge 30 Total

We are thrilled to announce that we have raised a grand total of £8,541 for Candlelighters this year. This is a huge achievement and we are so proud of everyone who has taken part.



Rewards Days Week

This week has seen our students enjoy their end of year rewards days either in school or at theme parks. These days are testament to the hard work and personal best our students bring to school all year, and we have record numbers qualify for these days. Staff attending reported how much students had fun on the rides and in the parks, and the activities in school hosted by English, Art and Food Tech departments saw students make buns, bags and enjoy VIP status in our common grounds café for their lunch! Years 7-9 had

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successful days at Flamingo Land with warm weather for all 3 days, making the most of the water rides, zoo and splash-land. Year 10 enjoyed Alton Towers and were able to go on their new rides as well as see the extensive parks and gardens. We hope students continue to bring their personal best next year and we see as many faces on the trips next year as we did this week.



Skateboard Art

Every year the Walk of Art asks local artists to run workshops in schools to inspire students to get creative! We were lucky to secure Ellen Scott to come and deliver a skateboard art workshop to fit in with this year's Walk of Art theme 'things that go'. The Year 8 students had a great time and were excited to see their finished skateboards on display at the exhibition at the Cricket Club in Hall Park, in early July as part of the Walk of Art weekend. They all look amazing!



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Munich Trip

Last week 50 Year 10 and 12 Business and Engineering students visited Munich. Their first evening was a lively and patriotic one, after an evening meal at the Hard Rock Café they congregated nervously in the hostel in their football shirts to cheer on our beloved England and watched them win 2-1 against the Netherlands! Great vibes to start off the trip on a high.

The following day it was up and off to the Deutsches Museum which houses the past, present and future of technology and sciences... life size planes, robot dogs running around, a huge model railway, live scientific experiments and much more – there really was something for everyone. Next, they enjoyed a trip round the BMW Museum learning about BMW's story from its beginnings to present day and saw exhibits like Elvis's restored BMW 507. Following this, students explored the unique architecture of the Olympic Park built for the 1972 summer Olympics, also the home of the Munich EURO 2024 Festival Fan Zone! They then had some well-earned free time at the Tollwood festival next to the Olympic Park.

The trip took a more sombre, reflective turn the next day when they paid their respects at Dachau Concentration Camp. The students were incredibly respectful when exploring the Nazi camp memorial, museum and reconstructed cell blocks. The architecturally unique Allianz Arena was our next stop. They got to experience the view from the seats, the changing rooms but most importantly a warmup bike used by Harry Kane! Students posed proudly with their England flags and spent far too many Euros in the shop!

The students enjoyed taking in the food, music and the culture of Munich throughout their time there. One night students enjoyed their meal at a 16th Century Hofbräuhaus, a huge Bavarian style restaurant with live music and upbeat vibe. They were also able to explore the shopping area around the old town Marienplatz....a great trip was had by all!



Year 7 Maths Circle

Last week, 8 students celebrated the successful completion of their first year of being part of Axiom's Maths Circles (<https://axiommaths.com/>) with an event at the Leeds Mathematics School led by Mr Robert Wilne. Murtadha, Kaniel, Georgios, Anjali, Sasha, Jennie, Elaina and Mia meet their mentor Ms James weekly, to tackle a curriculum of challenging maths problems. The beauty of maths circles is that they're about the relationships as much as the maths. Students have worked through a structured curriculum of

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challenging problems. They've been exposed to mathematics from beyond the National Curriculum, that takes them deep into stretching and satisfying topics they wouldn't normally encounter at school. We've enjoyed getting stuck and then unstuck and have got used to encountering problems that we don't get right first time - and so the satisfaction of solving them is even greater.

At the celebration event, we met with fellow maths enthusiasts from 16 other schools in Yorkshire to play challenging maths games together. It was a lovely celebration of the commitment these students have made this year and we look forward to continuing with them next year!



Summer Charity Concert

A huge congratulations to all our students who took part in the Summer Charity Concert last Thursday. The performances were spectacular, and we managed to raise an impressive £1240.35 for Candlelighters!



Change to Online Payment System (Parent Pay)

Please note that we are changing our online payment system from Parent Pay to iPay on the 22nd July. An email has been sent to all parents, please register at your earliest convenience.

Supporting Students with Medical Conditions in School

Due to a change in policy, if your child has a medical condition that you feel school should be made aware of, please ensure to provide medical evidence detailing the condition. Once we have received this medical evidence, we will update your child's records. School are not able to update a student's medical record

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without medical evidence. If your child has a medical condition that requires an Individual Healthcare Plan, please consult your child's doctor or specialist nursing team regarding this.

Medical evidence examples:

- Asthma Asthma Plan
- Allergies Allergy Action Plan

Medical evidence examples for all other medical conditions:

- A letter of diagnosis from your child's GP or a GP referral letter
- Summary report from a specialist medical team following a referral
- Appointment letter for a medical procedure detailing the medical condition
- An existing and up to date IHCP as provided by your child's medical team

Changes to our Positive Behaviour Policy for September 2024

As a reminder from last week's letter, I have included the summary from last week's letters again. I have now included a link to a video presentation by Mrs Nowell, Deputy Headteacher: Pastoral, to explain these changes further and the rationale.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-XAyJ533ogRfmU2-VAq7Yqg8R0YipADb/view?usp=sharing>

This year we have reviewed our procedures and believe it is the right time to make adjustments to the system 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. This changes how we reward students and how teachers will apply the low level escalation process and detention setting. This includes how it is recorded here and received by yourselves.

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

We will write to you in September with dates of a parental drop-in session with leaders to ask more about the procedures and there will be a presentation at school should you wish to hear more.

We thank you in advance for your support and patience.

Main changes to the rewards system:

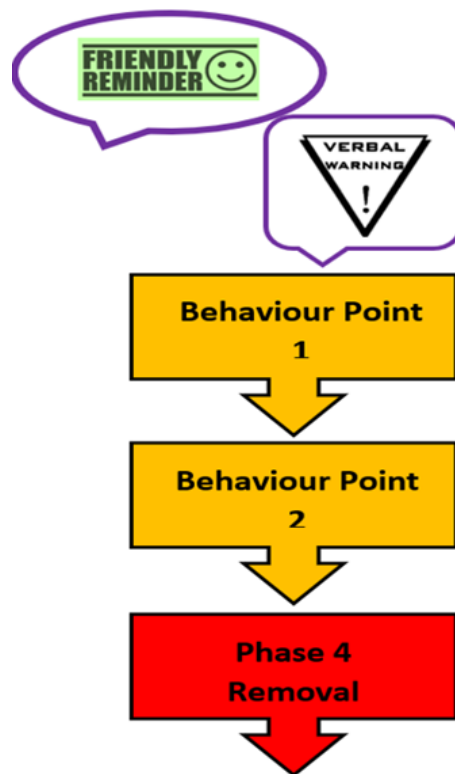
- We are moving away from the planner as a vehicle for rewards, so there will be no stamps.
- Next year students will be awarded electronic rewards points on Class Charts.
- These will be awarded by any adult and link to our character builders.
- Students will be awarded up to 6 points per teacher or adult or activity.
- You will see these points in 'real-time' and 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.

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Main changes to the process:

- There will be no written comments or behaviour comments in the planner. These will be recorded online, and seen by you on Class Charts and the App/website.
- There will be no detentions recorded or dates of detentions in the planner. These will be recorded online, and seen by you on Class Charts and the App/website.
- Students will be able to download an App or login to a website for Class Charts, they too can monitor their own behaviours, detentions. The App must only be used at home (before or after school).
- We have added additional steps 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:



- Students now have two chances to modify unwanted behaviours ahead of any consequence.
- We have added this step to support students, allow take up time and utilise some aspects of relational practise.
- Behaviour comments will be recorded on Class Charts but not in the planner.
- Students will be issued a small yellow card when they receive a behaviour point. The card will be placed on the desk as discreetly as possible. This is to remind them they have a point (because they are no longer in their planner). The card has tips and strategies on it to help students to not escalate their behaviours and encourages regulation.
- Parents will receive a notification of any behaviour points on their 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 app/website.
- Parents will be notified of all behaviour detentions via the app/website from September.

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Main changes on the student planner:

- The planner will still be used for all other systems in school and students will get a new one in September.
- The planner will still be used for homework organisation, information storage, notes, whiteboard and is vital for staff communication with the medical room etc.
- The planner must be brought everyday as we expect it to be brought every day now, it is still central to other systems.

Parent and Student Logins:

There will be more information about how you log into your App/website, we will send codes for your login so you can access only your child's data in September.

Duke of Edinburgh Award Update

Next week both the Silver and Gold Award participants are on expedition. On Monday 22nd July Gold Award participants attend in-school training followed by their practice expedition and then their assessed expedition from the 1st September. Silver Award participants have their assessed expedition from the 20th July, after successfully completing their practice expedition last month.

The Bronze Award participants are sorting themselves into their teams, ready for their in-school training and practice and assessed expeditions from September. Information on the Bronze expeditions has been sent home and can also be found on our school website here.

Wishing the participants lots of luck on their expeditions!

2024-2025 Term Dates

Please see below a link to the 2024-2025 term dates: <https://www.horsforthschool.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/Horsforth-School-Term-Dates-2024-25-2.pdf>

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

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.*

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

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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.

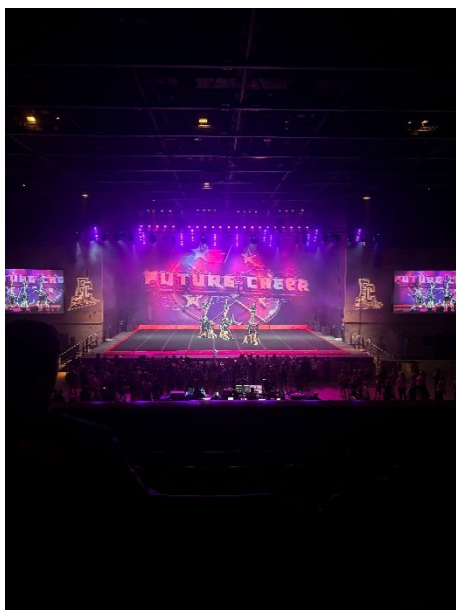
Sixth Form at Horsforth News

Captivating land...

We're thrilled to share the remarkable achievements of our Year 12 students at the Sixth Form at Horsforth! These talented individuals have embarked on work experiences across the globe, from the sun-kissed beaches of Spain to the majestic peaks of Nepal, and even as far as the captivating land Down Under—Australia! Their dedication, curiosity, and resilience are a true credit to our Sixth Form. Following visits from staff, we have been overwhelmed on how well they have risen to the challenges of work and impressed along the way!

The wonderful workplaces include the Submarine Department at BAE, the Astrophysicists Department at a French University, the Institute of Biomedicine in Valencia, the Forest Science Department at the University of Leeds, the Neonatal Department at Leeds General Infirmary, Britvic soft drinks and with the Head of Economic Policy at Leeds City Council.

One of our sixth form students enjoyed their work experience working as an assistant coach with a squad of elite sprinters at Leeds Beckett University. This has involved timing athletes during their track sessions, video analysis of their block starts and even having a go at resisted sprints themselves, working alongside the Biomechanics Technician at the university. The feedback we've had has been amazing, for which we are very proud, so we wish them a great summer and look forward to seeing them all in September! Below are just some pictures of our students on their placements. A big thank you to all parents/carers and hosts for making this week possible. Wishing you a lovely summer, from all of us in the Sixth Form Team – See you in September!



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Register Your Interest for our Sixth Form Open Evenings

If your child will be in Year 11 from September, don't forget to come to one of our sixth form open evenings. We will let you know when you can book a place, [if you register your details here](#).

It hasn't been a usual year and when I reflect it's difficult to look past the tragic loss of one of our former students in November but there have been some exceptional highs too.

We had a record set of results at GCSE and A level, our students have achieved outstanding sporting achievements and the creative triumphs of the production, dance shows and concerts have been wonderful. I am really proud of the wider opportunities we have offered, whether it's the Duke of Edinburgh Award, UK Maths Team Challenge or one of our amazing trips to Japan, Spain, Peru or China. It's been great to see so many students taking part.

So, thank you again and I am looking forward to everything the 24/25 academic year will bring.

Yours faithfully,

Dr P Bell
Headteacher

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