

## Horsforth School

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Headteacher: Dr P C Bell

Our Ref: PCB/TRH/JFI

22<sup>nd</sup> December 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we come to the end of the first term I always reflect on the year. It's difficult to look past the tragic death of Alfie and our thoughts are with his friends and family at this time.

But it is also worth celebrating our successes, whether sporting (e.g. Yorkshire Rugby Union Plate winners), academic (our best ever results and the highest A level results 2 years running) or looking at the individual achievements we see every day in school. This can be the students bringing their personal best every day, being kind to friends and other members of the school community or showing great character such as resilience.

It's not been an easy term but our students and staff have really come together as a whole school community and I couldn't be prouder. [Here is a link to our end of year newsletter](#) for a few reminders why.

### **Year 11 Revision Week**

We will be running a full week of revision activities and support for our Year 11 students starting on 15th January to prepare them for the second round of mock exams in February and ultimately their summer GCSE exams. We will be looking at workshops and holding assemblies on the importance of planning a revision timetable; how to revise using flashcards, blind mind mapping and other techniques, as well as looking at the importance of sleep. Students will then be given the opportunity to create their own bespoke revision timetable which they can then print and stick up in a prominent place for parents to see (and hold them to!)

### **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 during tutor time on the Wednesday of the first week back. Please support them making any appropriate changes to the timetable in their planner in preparation for the new term.

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## 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.

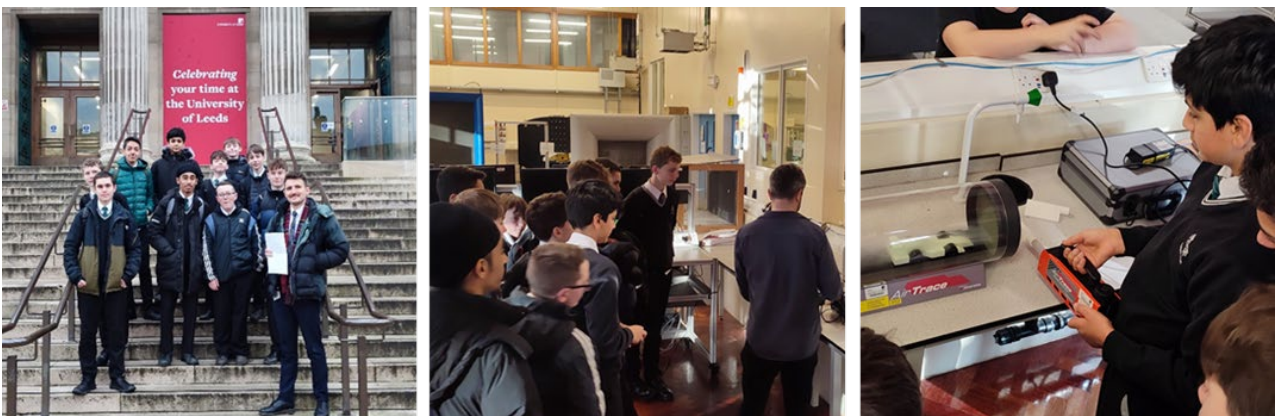
## Christmas Assemblies

Today our students were treated to festive Christmas Assemblies to celebrate the last day of term. The band sounded incredible!



## FI in Schools Follow up Event

Our Year 9 and 10 students taking part in the FI in Schools programme had another visit to the University of Leeds this week. This time for a formal race test to work with the team there to further develop their portfolios and designs ahead of the regional final. The designs are looking great!



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## Head Students

To promote Fundamental British Values as part of life at Horsforth School, all students recently had the opportunity to take part in a democratic process to elect our next Head Student. The winner was Abi in Year 11, so congratulations to her!

The other candidates will be joint Deputy Head students and each will take responsibility for improving student experiences on a specific aspect of school with a key focus on an area outlined in their speeches: Head Student: (Behaviour and Attitudes), Deputy Head Student: Anya (Careers), Deputy Head Student: Elena (Equality, Diversity and Inclusion).



## Battle of the Bands

Last night our hall rocked to the sounds of Battle of the Bands run by 'Stallion Records' Horsforth School's Sixth Form record label consisting of our music students Spike, Jimmy, Eve, Maddie, Oliver and Zack. 'The Rocketeers', 'The Silver Jades', 'The Who-What-Nows' and 'Disorient' all competed for the inaugural title of best band. The night was opened by our concert band to get us all into the festive spirit and the evening was closed by our staff band 'The Manic Street Teachers'!

Well done to the Key Stage 3 winners The Rocketeers and the Key Stage 4 winners The Who-What-Nows. Some of the proceeds from the event are going to The Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation, a charity close to our sixth formers' hearts.



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### **Leeds Netball Selection**

Massive congratulations to our students who have attended trials and been selected from numerous schools to play netball for Leeds City. We have representatives at every age group and we have never had this many selected before – they really have worked so hard!



### **Come and Work at our School**

[Take a look at our Vacancies webpage](#) to view the current roles we are recruiting.

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.

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

#### Motivation Monday

The final week of this term for our students started with Motivation Monday!

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The first lesson of the day was dedicated to focusing on our students' wellbeing - there was crochet, sewing, dodgeball, pirate games and more!



### Festive Food Science

Our Year 12 Food Science students did a great job making festive yule logs this week – we hope their families enjoyed the treat!



### 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 September. [Register for a free ticket on eventbrite.](#)

### TikTok

We are excited to say our Sixth Form now has a TikTok account. Most of the TikToks will be created by our students on the social media team as part of their enrichment. Give them a follow here:



[sixthform\\_athorsforth](#)

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As we move towards 2024 I am thankful to have such wonderful students and such a supportive school community. There is conflict and tension worldwide, political upheaval and social media often accentuates the negatives. I am thankful as when things do seem negative in the wider world I can walk around the lessons at Horsforth, see the wonderful efforts of our staff and students and it really lifts the spirits!

I sincerely hope you have a wonderful, restful Christmas and I look forward to welcoming everyone back in 2024.

Yours faithfully

Dr P Bell  
Headteacher

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