

Horsforth School

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Our Ref: PCB/TRH/JFI

26th January 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

Thank you to everyone who has replied to the parent forum survey, as a result of the survey we will schedule a series of Parent Forums and will aim to do at least one a term in addition to the usual parents' evenings, engagement events and information evenings.

I am currently doing a course with Mental Health First Aid England and its really made me reflect and wanted to share a really simple guide from the NHS website: <https://www.nhs.uk/mental-health/self-help/guides-tools-and-activities/five-steps-to-mental-wellbeing/>

Sometimes our really busy lives mean that even though things are fine we often never take time to stop, reflect and think and this was a really useful prompt for me.

Personal Development Curriculum and Offer

We have developed and enhanced our personal development offer for all students across the school. We are keen to make parents aware of this new offer and explain what personal development means at Horsforth School.

Personal Development is the main driver for educating the 'whole child.' It has a vital role in preparing young people to negotiate the challenges and opportunities of an increasingly complex world. This presents many positive and exciting opportunities, but also challenges and risks. Personal Development occurs through PSHCE, which is personal, social, health and economic education and Religious studies and other planned lessons. It supports students to be healthy (mentally and physically), safe (online and offline) and equipped to thrive in their relationships and careers. It helps equip our young people with the skills and knowledge needed for the wider world now and later into adult life. Personal Development occurs through planned experiences and opportunities such as trips, visits, super curricular events, themed weeks or drop-down day's and activities.

It goes beyond the academic, technical or vocational, it occurs within and beyond the classroom, on and off school site.

We divide our Personal Development offer into 8 strands. Each strand is delivered to each year group from Year 7 to Year 13. The diagram explains the content of these 8 strands.

The 8 strands ensure breadth and depth of our offer throughout the key stages.

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To see what is taught in each strand, please click on the relevant year group link below which will take you to more detail on our website.

Year 7:

<https://www.horsforthschool.org/school/looking-after-you-year-7/#pd>

Year 8:

<https://www.horsforthschool.org/school/looking-after-you-year-8/#pd>

Year 9:

<https://www.horsforthschool.org/school/looking-after-you-year-9/#pd>

Year 10:

<https://www.horsforthschool.org/school/looking-after-you-year-10/#pd>

Year 11:

<https://www.horsforthschool.org/school/looking-after-you-year-11/#pd>

Attendance and Punctuality Focus

As you know we have updated our late to school and class procedures, we therefore think it is a good opportunity to remind you about attendance and why it is crucial to the work our attendance team do. Research proves that there is a very clear relationship between excellent school attendance and academic achievement. Year after year, the students with the best school attendance achieve the best results. We are passionate about providing students with the best possible life chances and as such, know they have to 'be here to get there.'

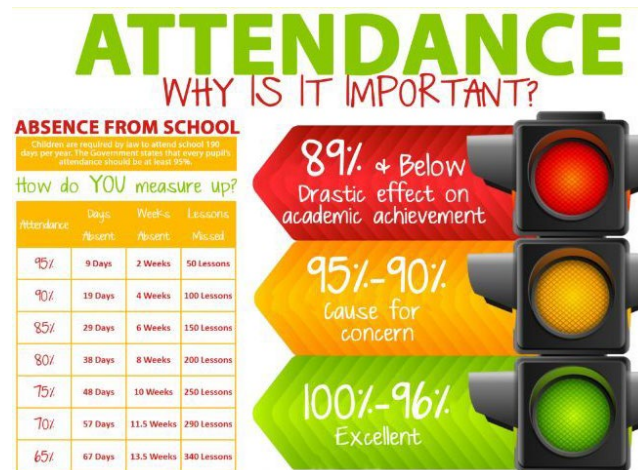
All students at Horsforth School are set an attendance target of 96% or above. Students with 96% attendance and above are more likely to:

- Be appointed to a well-paid job.
- Make the best progress in their subjects.
- Develop good habits for work and wider life.
- Achieve higher than average grades in their GCSEs.

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- Secure a place at a college, University or a training course.
- Maintaining strong and sound friendships.

Parents, carers and families are therefore asked to ensure that their young person is in school every day of term and on time. Poor time keeping and arriving late to school can impact on overall attendance totals. With attendance at 90% or below students are classed as 'Persistent Absentees' and the DfE warns of the impact that this can have not only on a child's progress but their personal development, relationships and social skills.



The children's commissioner set an ambiguous target for 100% attendance for all children for Autumn Term 2022 to ensure no child gets left behind or falls out of sight. Schools are undoubtedly the best place for children to thrive and be safe.

As such we are having a second whole school drive on punctuality and attendance next half term. We will be raising awareness of the importance of being on time to school and class as well as the skills of resilience and accountability.

Please do expect to receive letters where your child's attendance falls below set percentages leading to 90%; these are in line with our policy. The letters are standard warning and notice letters that all schools have a legal obligation to send.

Year 9 Options

All Year 9 students will be starting their Options process next week with a series of assemblies including some general guidance around choosing options and how the process will work at Horsforth as well as presentations from each subject area. They will also receive an options booklet giving further information next Friday in Form Time to bring home and show you.

A letter has also gone to all Year 9 parents/carers today giving information about the options process (including key dates and deadlines) and in particular inviting you to the Year 9 Options evening being held in school on Monday 19 February (first Monday back after half term) starting at 6.00pm for a presentation in the main hall followed by a chance to look around the subject stalls and ask questions until 7.30pm. Please look out for the additional letter today and email info@horsforthschool.org FAO Mrs Wright if you have any immediate questions regarding the options process prior to the options evening.

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School Dinners

At the request of the Student Parliament, please click on this link to see our catering offers for next week:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Bhjfs_sr3inq4rOOaUiluHqcu60nwYkBDGjZ2xZschk/edit



Horsforth School Lottery – Raising Money for Our Students

Many of you already generously support our School Lottery which raises additional funds for our students. We would love for more of you to get involved so here's some information about how it works.

- The lottery is run in association with the UK's only lottery organisation dedicated to helping schools – Your School Lottery
- Anyone over 18 years can take part – parents, carers, teachers and the wider community too, so please share with friends, colleagues and relatives (the more people who play the bigger the prizes)
- Tickets start from £1 per week
- There's a guaranteed weekly school prize draw - one of our school's supporters will win a cash prize every week
- An additional weekly national prize draw to win £25,000!
- A percentage of the ticket sales will be given back to our school which will help us to buy additional resources for our students.
- To date lottery money has contributed towards much needed gymnastics equipment, English books and sensory equipment for the SEND department.

Take a look at Horsforth School's dedicated webpage and buy tickets [here](#) - best of luck!

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 our SEND Team as a SEND Nurture Lead. You can always call the school for a chat about any of the jobs on offer on 0113 2265454. And please share with anyone you think might like to join our team.

Sports Fixtures

Year 10 Football

Our Year 10 Football Team had a successful trip to Benton Park with a win and a draw in their two games. The first match saw the boys dominate the game and rightfully they came out victorious 1-0. The 2nd game saw a similar narrative and Archie scored a fabulous solo goal to almost guide us to a win. However, with only a squad of 11, the boys started to tire and a last minute worldie from Ralph Thoresby saw the match finish 1-1. Special mentions go Ethan, Isaiah and Luke who put in solid efforts. The Player of the Match was Archie for a solid performance.

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Year 11 Football

Next Monday, Year 11 are into the last 16 of the National Cup after a bullish performance against South Hunsley (Hull). South Hunsley went ahead from poor marking at a corner. However, the side upped their game and brought it back to 2-1, with goals from Alec and Emre. The 2nd half was more like it and Luke scored another to put us 3-1 up. A late rally from Hunsley saw a nervy last 2 minutes, but the boys held on! Alec and Max were everywhere in midfield and put it in a superb effort. The Player of the Match has to go to Emre who inspired the team all game.

The team are also through to the Semi Final of the Leeds Cup with a storming display against St Mary's. With a depleted side, we struggled to control the game in the first half. A mix up the back gave St Mary's the lead, but Oscar used his pace to perfection to take us 1-1 at half time. In the 2nd half we deservedly scored two late goals to seal the win. One from a corner and another from a composed finish from Luke in the final seconds. Special mention to Luigi for stepping up in net. The Player of the Match was Oscar for being a constant threat throughout.

Next week sees the Quarter Final against The English Martyrs School (Hartlepool) in the National Cup. Kick-off is at 14:00 at Leeds Trinity with parents/carers welcome to watch.

U13 Netball

Roundhay 18-0 Horsforth: Unfortunately, the girls had a tough game against Roundhay School this week. The girls did a great job at keeping going throughout, showed great resilience and improved each quarter with only 1 goal being scored in the final quarter. Player of the match was Annabelle who stepped up into the Centre Position and led the team well.

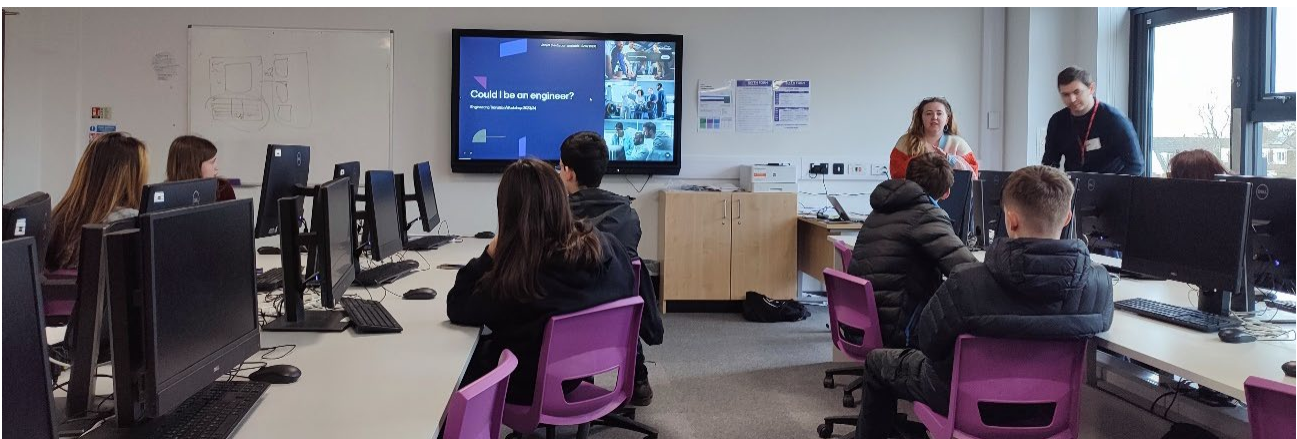
U12 Netball

Roundhay 7-3 Horsforth: First game for most students, and staff couldn't have been prouder of their efforts! The students supported each other, cheered each other on, and were gracious in their defeat. The girls gave a superb effort, with Kritika and Annabelle scoring some excellent goals from the edge of the D. The Player of the Match was Lily.

Sixth Form at Horsforth News

Engineering Outreach Team from University of Leeds

Thanks to Hannah and Jamie, PHD engineering students from the University of Leeds who came in to speak about Engineering courses, entry requirements and other options if things don't always go to plan.



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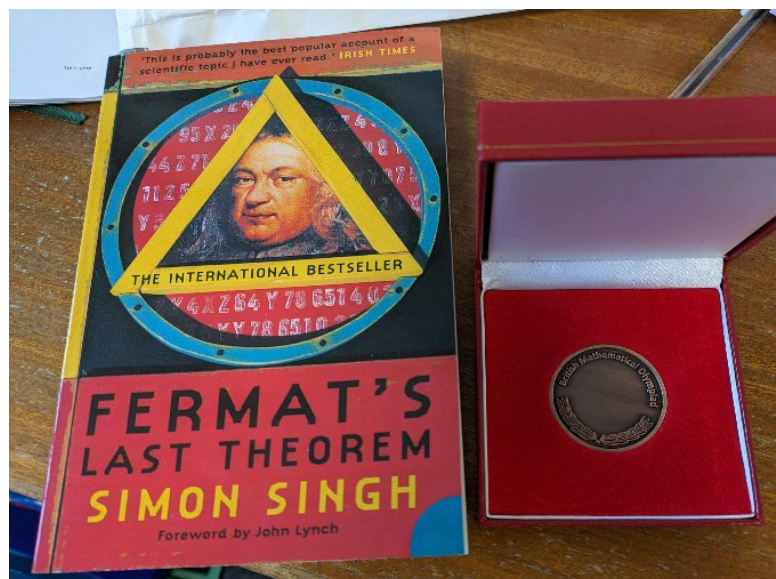
Open Evening

Our second Sixth Form Open Evening was a huge success last night. Our Student Ambassadors were a massive help and we couldn't have done it without you all! Special thanks to our fantastic Catering Team for the delicious food.



Amazing Success

Congratulations to Patrick who has been awarded a Bronze medal for his performance in the UKMT Mathematics Olympiad competition. From over 10,000 students, he made the top 100 where he sat a 3-and-a-half-hour paper (with only 6 questions!) and has qualified for the next round - Patrick is only the second student from our sixth form to ever do this! We wish Patrick all the best for the British Maths Olympiad round 2.



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Manchester Galleries

Just before Christmas our Year 12 art and photography students went on a trip to the Manchester galleries to complement their classroom work. Thank you to Mrs Brown for organising a great trip!



Student Success

Congratulations to Eitan who has been selected for the 2024 Trampoline Senior Development programme at British Gymnastics. What an amazing achievement!



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Mock Exam Timetable

Mock exams will be happening soon, here's the timetable:

<https://www.horsforthschool.org/sixthform/letters-home-sixth-form/>

Leeds Apprenticeship Recruitment Fair

Returns to the Leeds first direct arena on Monday 5th February. The event is an opportunity to find out more about apprenticeships and speak to employers. Book your free ticket here: <https://bit.ly/LARF24>



Yours faithfully

Dr P Bell
Headteacher

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