

Welcome to Horizon

School ready; Work ready; Life ready

A Parent's Guide



Welcome

Dear Parent/Carer

We are delighted to be able to welcome you to Horizon Community College. We are looking forward to working closely with all our new students and their families over the next few months to ensure the transition from primary to secondary education is smooth, positive and exciting.

The move to secondary school is one of the most significant events in a young person's life, one that stirs excitement and anticipation. Now that you've chosen Horizon Community College it is our aim to ensure that this transition is as smooth as possible. This means that upon starting with us, your son/daughter is ready to 'hit the ground running' and embrace the many opportunities that our college offers.

This month our transition staff will be busy meeting primary school teachers discussing the needs of each student, to ensure they have the best start possible to Year 7. More importantly, staff will be meeting Year 6 students between now and July; this is so children can ask questions to help ensure they feel prepared for the change they are about to face.

We are looking forward to meeting you and your child and working with you and them in the future.



Mrs C Huddart
Principal



Mrs C Malson
Assistant Principal
Head of School Year 7

The Horizon Headstart

By choosing Horizon, your child will benefit from:

- **Nationally recognised remote learning offer;**
- **Specialist teaching across all subjects, with facilities dedicated to the teaching of those subjects;**
- **Expertise in curriculum, teaching and learning, behaviour and standards, personal development and student well-being;**
- **Learning a broad range of subjects, including Art, Citizenship, Computing, Design Technology, Performing Arts (Dance, Drama, Music), as well as the core subjects of English, Maths, Science, Geography, History, MFL, PE, Religious Education & Citizenship;**
- **Targeted support for specific needs from our SEND and Sensory Resource Provision**
- **Their own School Team and Student Well-being Officer, there to ensure that every student feels supported to do their best in College every day;**
- **Having a part of the College (the 'Year 7 School') bus service and lunch time just for them, to support their adjustment to secondary school;**
- **A personal development passport that supports students to enhance their understanding of themselves and the world around them;**
- **A Year 7-11 Careers Curriculum that ensures that all students are able to make informed choices about their future lives beyond Horizon;**
- **A broad range of extra-curricular opportunities, including Sport, Music, Performance, Duke of Edinburgh and many more.**



The School Day

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| 8:25 am - 8:40am | Canteen is open for breakfast from 8:25 to 8:40am for Y7 |
| 8:40am | Year 7 day commences |
| 8:45am - 9am | Tutor Time - each day will have a different activity and is an important start to your day |
| 9am - 10am | Lesson one - 1 hour |
| 10am - 11am | Lesson two - 1 hour |
| 11am - 11:15am | BREAK - 15 minutes |
| 11:15am - 12:15pm | Lesson three - 1 hour |
| 12:15pm - 12:45pm | Lesson four - 30 minutes |
| 12:45pm - 1:15pm | LUNCH |
| 1:15pm - 1:45pm | Lesson four - 30 minutes |
| 1:45pm - 2:45pm | Lesson five - 1 hour |
| 2:45pm - 3:45pm | Enrichment Activities - optional (but definitely recommended!) |

Term Dates

Please note that the dates below are provisional, and are subject to change. We will contact you in advance of the start of the school year to confirm these dates.

| | |
|--|--|
| Staff INSET Day | Thursday 1st September 2022 |
| Y7 Induction Day (Y7 to attend in full uniform) | Friday 2nd September 2022 |
| All Students attend college | Monday 5th September 2022 |
| Autumn Half Term 1 | Thursday 1st Sept 2022 – Friday 21st Oct 2022 |
| October Half Term Holiday | Saturday 22nd Oct 2022 – Sunday 30th Oct 2022 |
| Autumn Half Term 2 | Monday 31st Oct 2022 – Friday 16th Dec 2022 |
| Christmas Holiday | Saturday 17th Dec 2022 – Tuesday 3rd Jan 2023 |
| Spring Half Term 1 | Tuesday 3rd Jan 2023 – Friday 10th Feb 2023 |
| February Half Term Holiday | Saturday 11th Feb 2023 – Sunday 19th Feb 2023 |
| Spring Half Term 2 | Monday 20th Feb 2023 – Friday 31st March 2023 |
| Easter Holiday | Saturday 1st April 2023 – Sunday 16th April 2023 |
| Summer Half Term 1 | Monday 17th April 2023 – Friday 26th May 2023 |
| May Bank Holiday | Monday 2nd May 2022 |
| May Half Term Holiday | Saturday 27th May 2023 – Sunday 4th June 2023 |
| Summer Half Term 2 | Monday 5th June 2023 – Friday 21st July 2023 |
| Summer Holiday Commences | Friday 21st July 2023 (TBC) |

The Journey Starts Here

Transition should not be a barrier nor a fear, it should be a wonderful experience, full of curiosity, excitement, and success.

To achieve this for our students, we work closely with all our local Primary Schools in order to get to know our prospective students. Mrs Malson and other key members of staff will spend time with them and their teachers in the primary setting and provide opportunities for the students to come and experience Horizon Community College, where necessary, so that they start to feel at home in our surroundings.

We will regularly communicate with you via email (the email address you provided to admissions) over the next few months. We will send you our admission form, Newsletters and other information to ensure you and your child feels fully informed and ready for the September start. We will send you details about our Transition Evening (provisionally to be held in June) where we will share with you useful information such as our key core values, uniform, school day, cashless system and much much more!

Transition Day 2022:

We are excited to inform you that our new Year 7 students will commence their journey to Horizon on Friday 2nd September. This day is for Year 7 students only, allowing your child to meet their form tutor, meet their form and have the opportunity to travel around the college building finding their bearings without the worry of other year groups in the college building. Students will wear, with pride, their Horizon uniform and follow their school day which you can see on the following page.

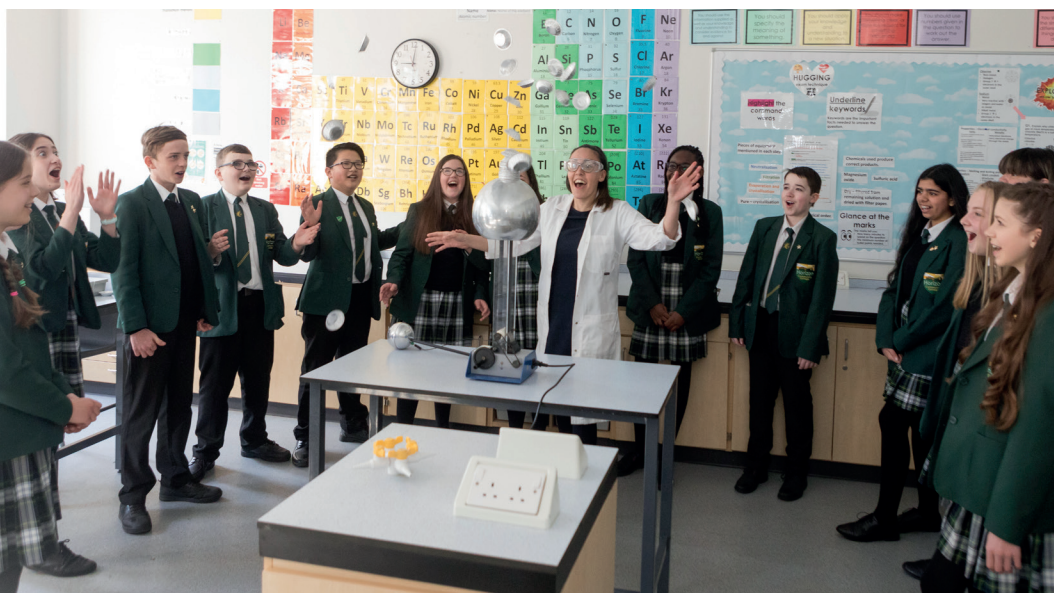
We do hope your child is excited as we are about this transition day, it really is a great start to their journey at Horizon

In the Classroom

At Horizon Community College, we are proud to offer all students a broad and exciting curriculum. All students have the opportunity to experience a wide range of subjects, ensuring that from Year 7 to Year 11, they gather a range of skills and qualifications that will provide solid foundations for success in future study and whichever career they choose to follow.

In Year 7, all students study a core curriculum of English, Mathematics, Science, History, Geography, Modern Foreign Languages, Religious Education, Citizenship and Physical Education, as well as a wider curriculum of Art, Performing Arts, Design and Technology and Computing.

As well as developing students' understanding of the subjects they study, our 'Character in the Classroom' initiative helps students develop as learners, promoting the behaviours that high performing students demonstrate across their lessons so that everyone can realise fully their potential through their journey through secondary school and beyond. This, as well as the extensive range of subjects we offer means that students have the opportunity to learn a fantastic variety of knowledge and skills that will help obtain a sense of the world around them, and begin to make decisions about what courses they might choose to study in Years 10 and 11.



School ready; Work ready; Life ready

Outstanding character in the classroom involves...

Having high expectations for yourself

Taking pride in your work and ensuring your books are well looked after and organised

Finishing work and where you don't, taking it home to finish it

Pushing yourself onto challenging work and not staying in your comfort zone

Speaking loudly and clearly using a 'stage voice' when addressing the class



Taking responsibility for your learning

Being fully equipped to learn for every lesson

Arriving on time for all lessons

Tracking the speaker

Asking questions to clarify learning

Bringing your book

Being aware of your strengths and areas for development

Having a growth mindset

Wanting feedback so you can use it to improve

Working hard consistently

Listening to others to learn from them

Supporting your peers and valuing their effort

Answering questions and not being afraid of being wrong



Taking ownership of your learning

Taking your books home so that you can finish work and use them for revision

Responding to feedback

Completing home learning on time and bringing it in

Revising for assessments

Getting on with the 'Do Now' work, in silence as soon as you arrive at your lesson



Pride

Organisation

Engagement

Questioning

Respect

Kindness

Teamwork

Tolerance

Independence

Resilience

Teaching & Learning

We're really proud of our Teaching and Learning offer at Horizon. Students are taught by specialists across our wide subject range. Lessons take place in specialist facilities, including dedicated STEM rooms for Science and Design Technology, studios for Art and Photography, our state-of-the-art Performing Arts studios and Theatre, and our extensive PE spaces and ICT facilities. All classrooms are equipped with the latest audio-visual facilities, to support engaging and instructive teaching in every lesson.

Our Teaching and Learning strategy draws on best practice from a wide range of evidence and research bases, focusing on:

- **High expectations and positive relationships**
- **Questioning and discussion**
- **Explanation and modelling**
- **Scaffolding and differentiation**
- **Deliberate practice and retrieval**
- **Responsive teaching and metacognition**

These 6 elements have been shown to have the biggest impact on student progress in the classroom, and all staff have regular CPD to support their development in these areas, so that your child can be challenged in every lesson, every day.

Personal Development

Personal development at Horizon Community College extends the curriculum beyond the expected academic, technical and vocational and provides our students with opportunities to develop passion, talent and interests. We believe in providing rich experiences of exceptional quality, in the curriculum and through a full range of extra-curricular activities, that considerably strengthen the character and education of our students. We support learners in developing their character including their resilience, confidence and independence, ensuring they know how to stay physically and mentally healthy throughout. At every stage of our students' journey, we provide an outstanding programme of careers and enterprise, preparing students for further education and next steps, ensuring students are work ready. In turn, students are prepared for life in modern Britain within all subject areas but additionally through an in-depth programme of citizenship and tutor period debate.

Year 7 Enrichment:






Y7 ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

| MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY |
|---|---|---|---|---|
|  FUSION DANCE <small>THEATRE</small> <small>(Girls: M, L, J, K and 6 form groups)</small> STREETKINGZ <small>(Boys) THEATRE</small> COMPUTER CODING <small>ICT9</small> SCIENCE <small>SC09</small> |  FOOTBALL CRICKET ATHLETICS (TRACK) ATHLETICS (FIELD) NETBALL ROUNDERS <small>PE DEPARTMENT</small> |  FUSION DANCE <small>THEATRE</small> <small>(Girls: M, L, J, K, P, S and 8 form groups)</small> SPOTLIGHT <small>PAOS</small> |  FUSION DANCE <small>THEATRE</small> <small>(Girls: S, T, J and 5 form groups)</small> STEM <small>8.05</small> ART <small>9.04</small> BOOK CLUB <small>9.03</small> |  MUSIC <small>PAOS</small> |





**TAKE THE CHALLENGE AND SEE HOW MANY YOU CAN COMPLETE!
DON'T FORGET TO GET YOUR CARD SIGNED!**

Year 7 Lunchtime Activities:






LUNCHTIME ENRICHMENT MONDAY

| | | |
|---|--|---|
|  Board Games Club <small>Heartspace</small> |  Football <small>Muga</small> |  Cool & Calm <small>Conference Room Invitation Only</small> |
|  Imagination Space <small>Library</small> |  Breakdance <small>Theatre</small> | |

LUNCHTIME ENRICHMENT WEDNESDAY

| | | |
|---|---|---|
|  Board Games Club <small>Heartspace</small> |  Football <small>Muga</small> |  Cool & Calm <small>Conference Room Invitation Only</small> |
|  Imagination Space <small>Library</small> | | |

LUNCHTIME ENRICHMENT FRIDAY

| | | |
|---|--|---|
|  Board Games Club <small>Heartspace</small> |  Football <small>Muga</small> |  Imagination Space <small>Library</small> |
|  Cool & Calm <small>Conference Room Invitation Only</small> |  Independent Work <small>9.04 Bridge - Invitation Only</small> | |

Beyond the Classroom

What extra-curricular opportunities do Year 7 students have?

Students at Horizon Community College have the chance to experience a wide range of extra-curricular activities to further enhance their studies beyond the classroom. Be it sport, fitness, music, STEM, dance or drama, students can take part in a choice of clubs and pursuits to suit their interests. As students progress through College, we also offer opportunities such as the Duke of Edinburgh Award, where participants learn and develop new skills, volunteer to support the wider community and take part in expeditions in the Peak District.



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Careers & Enterprise

The Careers landscape is changing faster than at any point in our history and will provide so many opportunities for young people. It is important, therefore, to give our students the skills and confidence to navigate this changing landscape successfully. At Horizon Community College we regard the preparation for life after GCSE's and those options as important as academic learning achievements. The Careers and Enterprise Team's core mission is to help every student develop those skills and to give them the best information, backed up by great experiences to make the most informed decision that they can about their future choices and career options.

There is a wide reaching and inclusive careers programme that provides the widest range of opportunities and experiences for ALL students. The complementary Careers curriculum spans a student's journey that begins in Year 7 and includes:

- **Organised events and experiences that give students the opportunity to explore different job sectors and develop key work readiness skills**
- **Personal guidance – professional, impartial guidance and support at key learning and decision points to assist with making those decisions**
- **Careers advice and information – CV writing, interview advice and mock interviews, as well as other tips and tricks**
- **Support – encourage the thirst for learning to provide the best start to the careers journey as possible**



Uniform & Equipment

As part of our high expectations and aspirations at Horizon Community College we take great pride in our uniform and expect students to wear it correctly at all times and with a sense of pride and belonging. The Horizon Community College uniform ensures that our students are recognised as young people who are part of our community.

Full details of our uniform can be found on the College website, with guidance to ensure the correct items are purchased. The Year 7 tie for September 2022 will have a light green emblem and stripe. Our school uniform is supplied by Vortex.



EQUIPMENT NEEDED:

- Pens
- Pencils
- Ruler
- Eraser
- Scientific Calculator
- Apron
- PE Kit
- School Bag

MOBILE DEVICES

Mobile phones/devices are not permissible in the college building. If a mobile device is seen it will be confiscated and handed to student reception, where it can be collected at the end of the day by the student.

If students need to bring a mobile device for safety purposes it is at **their own risk.**

Attendance & Punctuality

Excellent attendance + effort = successful learning

We are committed to ensuring that all students are School ready; Work ready; Life ready. It is, therefore, pivotal that students have excellent attendance. We aim that all students should have attendance of 100% and will take steps to support families when attendance falls below this. Excellent and improving attendance will be rewarded every half term through our attendance assemblies.

Good punctuality is vital. Students are welcomed every morning at the student entrance by the Year 7 leadership team to ensure they are ready for the day ahead. Students can then make use of the college ICT facilities or head to the dining hall to enjoy breakfast (including the free magic breakfast) with their peers. The day commences at 8:40am with a 15 minute form period where students will engage in activities around attendance, literacy and numeracy. They will also be involved in the Votes For Schools weekly activity giving them the opportunity to discuss topical issues that address multiple curriculum areas such as citizenship, PSHE and British Values.



School ready; Work ready; Life ready

Part of our College Vision is to support all students to become positive role models. To realise this vision, all staff support students to follow the College Core Values during and outside of their College day.

| | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| Pride Wear full College uniform at all times. Take pride in all you do and actively look to improve your work. | Organisation Bring correct equipment to every lesson. Organise your time and complete homework to the best of your ability. | Engagement Be focussed and attentive in lessons act on advice and feedback. Seek to discover new things & be prepared to take risks. | Questioning Contribute in every lesson. Ask questions to deepen your knowledge and understanding. | Respect Follow staff instructions the first time & every time. Be honest and polite to others. |
| Kindness Be considerate and supportive of others. Treat others as you would expect to be treated. | Teamwork Engage with cooperative learning. Take on an active role within the team, readily sharing ideas and information. | Tolerance Value others regardless of sexuality, race, faith gender or disability. Accept the quirks of others. | Independence Demonstrate dedication & commitment. Be self-disciplined and evidence self-direction. | Resilience Persevere and recognise it is alright to make a mistake. Respond well to constructive criticism. |

Communication

The college uses two systems to communicate with parents and carers

ParentMail is our system for sending letters, topping up dinner money accounts and making payments for school trips.

SIMS InTouch is our system for sending reports and for behaviour and attendance updates for your child.

There are apps available for both systems, and we will provide you with further details of how you can access these apps on your phone or online, closer to your child's start date at Horizon Community College.

Key Staff:



Mrs Huddart

Principal



Mrs Malson

Assistant Principal
and Head of School
Year 7



Mrs Proud

Assistant Principal,
SENCO

If you have any questions at all about the Transition process, and how you can support your child to make the best start in Year 7, contact the Transition Team at **transition@horizoncc.co.uk**

There is also a dedicated section of the College website where you can find even more about transition guidance, key documents, events, and other information.

www.horizoncc.co.uk

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Horizon Community College
Dodworth Road
Barnsley
South Yorkshire
S70 6PD



+44 (01226) 704230



info@horizoncc.co.uk



www.horizoncc.co.uk



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