

Horizon Community College

Prospectus
2024 Intake





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Welcome

The economic, cultural and social landscape of Barnsley is changing. Opportunities in further education, higher education and professional roles are increasing; opportunities for individuals to shape their own career pathways are growing; opportunities for individuals to challenge traditional socio-economic patterns are multiplying.

At Horizon Community College, our responsibility is to prepare students for this reality. We want young people to leave the College well qualified and with a unique skill set that will enable them to stand out from the crowd.

We want young people to be in possession of a passport of qualifications and employability skills that will enable them to pursue exciting careers, attend prestigious universities, complete dynamic apprenticeships and play leading roles in regenerating this area and beyond.

Our curriculum is tailored to the needs of and meets our ambition for each individual student. This is underpinned by the College's core values which help to prepare every student for a lifetime of success.

Successful education is also about working in close partnership with our families and the community, to ensure our students succeed in each school year and are prepared for the next appropriate phase of their education. We work together to empower our students to believe that anything and everything is possible. We heavily invest in the growth and development of our entire workforce, so they are also prepared for the next phase of their careers. We promote 'one team' working hard to support each other. We are focused on continued professional development for staff at every level.

We embed a curriculum and culture that results in Equity of Opportunity, Strong Community, High Expectations, Global Readiness and Kindness so that our students are **School Ready; Work Ready; Life Ready.**



Mrs Huddart
Principal



Why not give your child the Horizon Headstart?

Choosing Horizon Community College as the number one preference for your child means that they will:

- Access the best in terms of teaching, facilities, and curriculum;
- Succeed academically by being challenged in every lesson, every day;
- Become positive role models, ready to make the best of the opportunities society has to offer;

At Horizon, we will provide the following for your child:

- 100 state-of-the-art learning spaces;
- An average class size of 25 students (lower than the national average);
- Subject-specific facilities, including 3 Art studios, 10 IT suites, 5 Performing Arts spaces, a whole block dedicated to Physical Education, and our Horizon Theatre;
- A modern and student-centred library, providing students with access to a comprehensive range of subject-specific, fiction and non-fiction texts, with reading and study spaces for all students to access;
- A wider curriculum offer of Citizenship, Art, Engineering, Food, Graphics, Textiles, Dance, Drama, Music and Computing for all Key Stage 3 students, as well as the core subject curriculum of English, Maths, Science, Geography, History, Languages, Religious Education and PE.

At Horizon, we will provide the following for your child:

- A dedicated Year Team for Year 7 with 17 staff (including form tutors) responsible for excellent pastoral care;
- An enrichment programme at lunchtime and after school, subject based competitions set through a weekly student bulletin, enterprise challenges, the Student Experience Passport, the various lunchtime activities which run alongside the personal development awareness events programme and much more;
- Extra-curricular opportunities including championship-winning Sports teams and Performing Arts groups, the Duke of Edinburgh Award, STEM club and Enterprise projects;
- An enrichment programme at lunchtime and after school, subject based competitions set through a weekly student bulletin, enterprise challenges, the Student Experience Passport, the various lunchtime activities which run alongside the personal development awareness events programme and much more;
- Extra-curricular opportunities including championship-winning Sports teams and Performing Arts groups, the Duke of Edinburgh Award, STEM club and Enterprise project.



Your Pastoral Team



Miss Sheldon
**Assistant Principal –
Head of KS3 Pastoral**



Mr Middleton
**Assistant Principal –
Deputy Head of KS3**

Our team, along with our form tutors, provide wide-ranging and inclusive pastoral care that supports every child to thrive at Horizon:

Form Tutors lead our comprehensive form time programme, which provides students the time to reflect on their attendance and engagement, whilst also offering them opportunities to participate in debate about college, local and national issues. They are the first point of contact for students and parents when it comes to pastoral matters.

Heads of Year oversee the pastoral care for a year group, ensuring all students in their care are able to thrive and learn successfully at Horizon.

Student Learning Officers support students to maintain good behaviour, positive attitudes to learning and progress in lessons.

Student Wellbeing Officers support students with their mental health and wellbeing.

Early in Year 7, we invite all parents/carers to attend our 'Settling In' evening, which provides you and your child an opportunity to reflect on their start at Horizon, what's going well and what, if any, support is required to get the most out of their time in college.

We're excited at the prospect of welcoming your child to Horizon. We're proud of our offer for Year 7, which is designed to help students confidently make the step up into secondary school. We're delighted to have the opportunity to support your child throughout their time with us at Horizon.

The Year 7 Day:

Before 8:30	Free breakfast available in canteen
08:30 – 08:50	Form time
08:50 – 09:55	Lesson 1
09:55 – 11:00	Lesson 2
11:00 – 11:15	Break time
11:15 – 12:20	Lesson 3
12:20 – 12:50	Lesson 4
12:50 – 13:25	Lunch time
13:25 – 13:55	Lesson 4 continued
13:55 – 15:00	Lesson 5
15:00	End of School Day, Enrichment clubs start

Artworker
Kane Young

Cycle industry factory is working closely alongside some of the top
professional engineers in the region around the Yorkshire region.
Anya Bridges





Our Impact

0.31

Progress 8 puts Horizon in the top 25% for school outcomes nationally.

5.15

Average grade achieved by all students in Y11 in 2022.

1st

in Barnsley for 'Strong Pass' English Baccalaureate awards (Grade 5 or higher in each of English, Maths, Science, Geography or History and MFL).

100%

of Y11 leavers have taken up a guaranteed place in education, employment or training in 2022, significantly higher than the national average.

66%

of Y11 leavers have taken up a Level 3 (A-level or equivalent course) post-16 in 2022, significantly higher than the national average.



Our Students

"I am very excited to carry on my journey at Horizon!"

"I'm looking forward to my Year 8 and to continue to represent the college in the sporting teams."

"The teachers at Horizon are really encouraging!"

Layla – Class of 2027

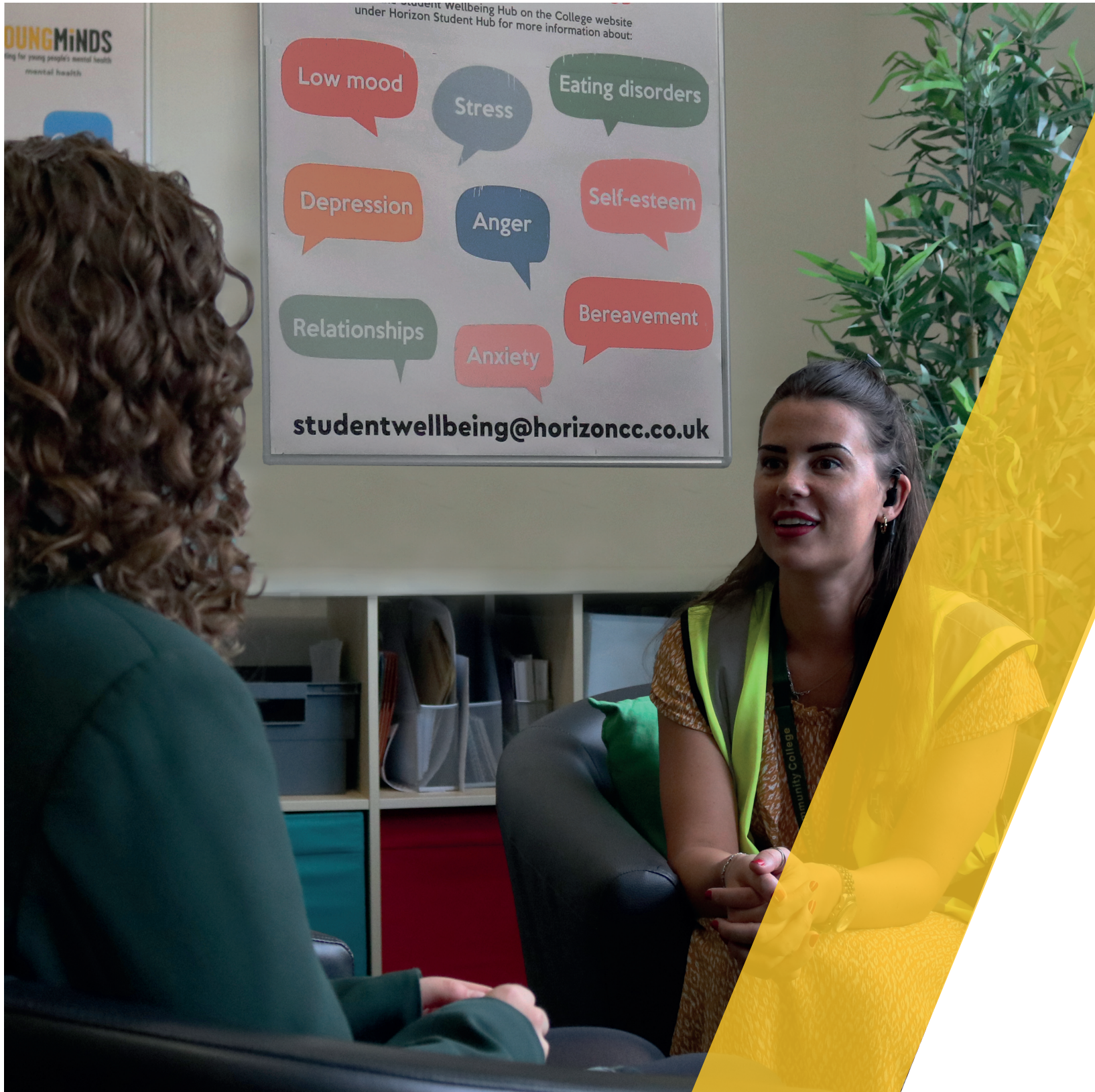
Hello, my name is Layla and I am so grateful to be part of Horizon. During my first half term I successfully applied to become a Student Ambassador and I have supported the Student Council by making changes for the better of the students in the College. As well as these roles, I have also supported fundraising events to raise money and awareness of the charity LimbBo Foundation and Comic Relief. Horizon has given me the opportunities to try new things and record this through the Student Experience Passport. This has included engaging in careers and enrichment activities, allowing me to become more confident and outgoing.

Joshua – Class of 2027

Hello, my name is Josh and I have had a great experience in my first year at Horizon. I am really enjoying the variety of subjects that I am studying! I am a keen sportsman so was excited to be able to make full use of the sporting facilities at Horizon. I joined the cricket and football team after school, and really enjoy being part of these teams. By joining these teams, I have made new friends who have the same interests as me outside the classroom.

Bertina – Class of 2027

Hello, I am Bertina, and I must say being part of Horizon is an absolute pleasure and I am sure many others will agree. There are many ways that I have been praised at Horizon this year. These include being rewarded with 2 gold pin badges for being in the top 10% of my year group for my outstanding effort in lessons and I have been presented with the Principal's Award which my Head of Year nominated me for. In lessons we are awarded achievement points by our class teachers, and I am very proud for surpassing Platinum level which is 450 achievement points allowing me to go on the end of year rewards trip. I also set myself a target and have reached my goal of 600 achievement points.



YOUNG MINDS
Supporting young people's mental health

Student Wellbeing Hub on the College website
under Horizon Student Hub for more information about:

Low mood

Stress

Eating disorders

Depression

Anger

Self-esteem

Relationships

Anxiety

Bereavement

studentwellbeing@horizoncc.co.uk

Community College



Wellbeing

At Horizon Community College, we believe in making sure our students have access to the very best in wellbeing provision, with the College being seen as a safe space and we encourage children to talk freely about any concerns or worries which may affect their educational experience.

Our nationally recognised offer centres on a dedicated Safeguarding and Wellbeing team, who are specialists in a range of skills to support the welfare and mental health of students during their time in secondary education. Parents can be assured that children will be taken seriously if they seek help from a member of staff. Students may be referred for bespoke support from external agencies and we will always endeavour to work in partnership with parents to inform them of additional support required or accessed for their child.

As well as our college wellbeing offer, we work closely with a range of providers to ensure student support is bespoke to needs.

These providers include:

- **Mind**
- **Chilypep**
- **0-19 Public Health Nursing Service**
- **YMCA**
- **CAMHS**
- **Targeted Youth Support**

and many others...

Our wellbeing offer for students complements the role of our Form Tutors, Heads of Year and Heads of Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 in our wider pastoral care. Across all aspects of this offer, parents and carers can be confident that their child always has someone to ask for support from throughout their time at Horizon.

'There won't be any other school where you'll find the level of staffing to support the wellbeing of the students'

Mrs Huddart, Principal – BBC News Report, March 2022



A young woman wearing a black hijab and a green school uniform is seated at a light-colored wooden desk. She is looking down at an open book or paper in front of her. Her hands are resting on the desk. In the background, another person is partially visible, also in a green uniform. The image is framed with a white border and a green geometric overlay on the right side.

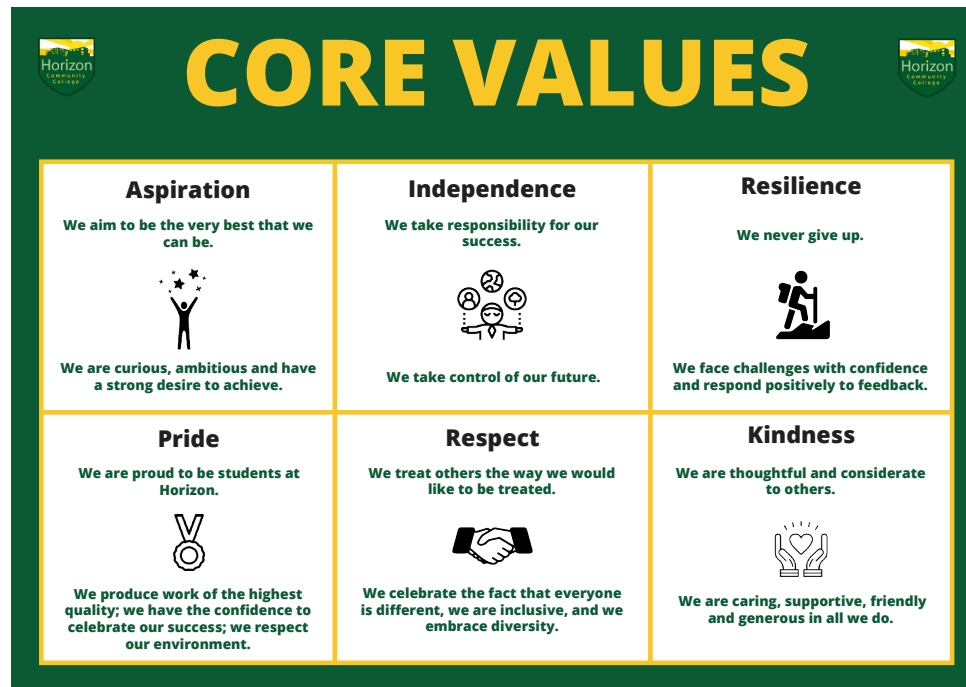
Behaviour & Standards

**“Developing Positive
Role Models”**



Our Core Values

Horizon works in partnership with parents and carers to promote positive behaviour and to encourage students to make the right choices. We believe all students should strive to be **positive role models** who demonstrate and embrace our Core Values at every opportunity. We encourage students to uphold our high expectations and to help create a sense of community throughout college. Staff will consistently seek to adopt a positive approach to student discipline to ensure a safe and secure environment in which learning can flourish.



Horizon Community College is an Inclusion Quality Mark Centre of Excellence. The Inclusion Quality Mark Award provides UK schools with a nationally recognised validation of their inclusive practice and ongoing commitment to developing educational inclusion.

A Centre of Excellence brings schools together to share and build on their existing good practice in inclusion best practice. As a truly inclusive College, we provide targeted support and appropriate provision for students who may have a particular need at some point in their school career.







Character in the Classroom

Students are encouraged to reflect on and develop their 'Character in the Classroom'. This involves students taking ownership of and responsibility for their learning, having high expectations of themselves and developing a positive growth mindset.

All staff are encouraged to promote 'Character in the Classroom' which in turn supports our ethos of students becoming 'positive role models'. Each classroom across the college displays a poster with the important characters and qualities that we feel students should aim to demonstrate at every opportunity.

Students who demonstrate outstanding 'Character in the Classroom':

- Have high expectations for themselves
- Take responsibility and ownership for their learning
- Have a growth mindset

Praise & Rewards

Our praise system acknowledges and rewards positive behaviour in and around College. Students can expect rewards in the form of:

- Platinum, Gold, Silver or Bronze awards
- Gold Pin Badges
- Star Student Breakfast
- Celebration of Achievement Award
- Positive Conduct Points
- Achievement Points
- CLT Star Cards
- Star of the Lesson
- Naming on the Praise Board
- Positive Praise Postcards
- Positive Phone Call Home
- Proud Thursday Certificate/Sticker/Card
- Principal's Award

The Praise and Consequences system upholds high standards of behaviour and conduct consistently across the College. Every week the College celebrates 'Proud Thursday' with students having the opportunity to share their work at the Proud Thursday table in the Heartspace. For further details on Praise and Consequences, please read the Behaviour for Learning policy on the College website.



Uniform Requirements

At Horizon, “students wear their uniform with pride” (Ofsted June 2018). We firmly believe a common uniform creates a sense of community and helps students identify with the College.

The uniform expectations were introduced when the College first opened in 2012. Since then, we have maintained the same uniform and the same high expectations for all students stepping through the doors of Horizon.

To maintain a professional feel around the College, students remove outerwear including coats, hats and scarves at the student entrance before they enter the Heartspace. The morning ‘meet and greet’ ensures that they are ‘school ready’ and have with them their school bag, planner and reading book.

The College will loan uniform, footwear and equipment, where needed.

Students must wear minimal jewellery (one plain stud in each ear, one ring and a watch) and discreet makeup, as explained on the College website.

For further details of all aspects of the College uniform, please visit the College website.

Our approved uniform supplier is Vortex Schoolwear. The web address for online ordering of Horizon approved uniform is:

www.vortexschoolwear.co.uk/Secondary-Schools/Horizon-Community-College







Quality of Education

“Challenging every learner,
every lesson, every day”





Curriculum

Our curriculum aims to provide an education which enriches students' ambitions and love of learning. It equips them with the skills, knowledge, and cultural capital they need to access aspirational post-16 pathways and the responsibilities and experiences of later life. It underpins everything we do as a college, challenging and supporting students in their academic, social and moral development.

Our curriculum is built around our ABC model: we ensure our curriculum is Ambitious, Appropriate, Balanced, Broad, Coherent and Connected. It ensures all students benefit from experiences such as exposure to classic and relevant texts, scientific experiments or pieces of music. Students leave Horizon 'Life Ready', as well-rounded members of society, having enjoyed a wealth of opportunities across the arts, humanities, sciences, and practical subjects; having been exposed to a wide range of high quality texts, influences and viewpoints and having been given the chance to develop passions and interests that will last a lifetime.

The Key Stage 3 curriculum is comprised of the following subjects:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Geography
- History
- Modern Foreign Languages (French or Spanish)
- Religious Education
- Citizenship
- Computing
- Physical Education
- Dance
- Drama
- Music
- Art
- Engineering
- Graphics
- Food Technology
- Textiles

All students study these subjects through Key Stage 3. Towards the end of Year 9, students then select up to 4 option subjects to study for qualifications (GCSE and vocational courses) at the end of Key Stage 4.

We clearly communicate the intent, skills, and knowledge of our curriculum to our students. We believe that they should understand why they are learning this topic now, what skills or knowledge they have learned in the past that has prepared them for this and how they will build on this in the future. As well as this, we summarise the upcoming curriculum journey in each subject in a half-termly curriculum update for parents, so that they can provide support to their child as they progress through their studies.



Teaching & Learning

As part of our mantra to 'challenge every learner, in every lesson, every day' at Horizon, we put quality first teaching at the heart of everything we do, planning and delivering engaging and inspiring learning experiences. Our teaching and learning strategy draws on research, evidence and shared best practice to ensure we provide our students with the highest quality of education. The students develop their ability to learn independently, accumulate cultural capital and acquire the skills that will empower them to fulfil their potential and to make a positive contribution to society.

Our Six Aspects of Teaching and Learning:



HIGH EXPECTATIONS, AMBITIOUS ACADEMIC GOALS AND POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS



EXPLANATION AND MODELLING



QUESTIONING, RETRIEVAL AND DISCUSSION



RESPONSIVE TEACHING (BE READY TO GO BACK AS WELL AS FORWARDS)



INDEPENDENT PRACTICE AND SCAFFOLDING



GROWTH MINDSET AND METACOGNITION





Reading

At Horizon we believe reading gives you power, and we support students at all levels to develop their reading. In lessons, students are given opportunities to develop their reading fluency skills through the use of high-quality texts. Underpinning this are our high expectations for developing vocabulary. In lessons, students will be challenged to develop the vocabulary specific to their subject through a range of teaching and learning strategies. In addition to this, in English, students have access to an online platform called Bedrock Learning, which personalises each user's vocabulary journey, allowing them to develop vocabulary specifically appropriate to their ability.

Our Library

Overlooking our heart-space, the library offers students the opportunity to read for pleasure. Like the Lightbox and other Barnsley Library sites, we stock a wide range of fiction and non-fiction texts, which students can borrow to enjoy at home. This space is also open for students to study, read for pleasure or attend one of our many extra-curricular clubs.

Reading for Pleasure

Each year, students are challenged to complete their personal reading journey. This offers them the opportunity to read books in a range of genres. They are awarded achievement points for each book they complete on their journey. For every fully completed journey, they are also awarded with a token for our book vending machine, which is situated beside student reception, in our heart space.

Reading Support

For students for whom reading is difficult, we offer pathways of intervention, allowing students to develop the skills most needed for them to succeed. This means that students could be supported with Speech and Language Therapy, Phonics intervention, Fluency intervention or even Comprehension intervention. To support this, we collect reading ages annually. Further to this, we offer a peer reading programme, where younger students are paired with other younger students and spend time within the school day reading together.



A large yellow geometric shape, resembling a stylized arrow or a folded piece of paper, pointing towards the top right corner of the page.

Assessment & Progress

Assessment

At Horizon, we make use of regular Progress Checks to help students understand how well they're developing within a subject. We also use Summative Assessments to establish how well students are progressing through the curriculum, testing learning over time to inform their future learning journey. Assessments are planned to test the curriculum strands; which can be found on the college website.

Feedback

We support students in identifying their strengths and areas and development through high quality feedback lessons which include strategies such as; modelling, re-drafting work and personalised questioning. Students are encouraged to be metacognitive learners and take ownership of acting on their next steps. This process helps them to make rapid progress in their learning, whilst developing their resilience and confidence they need to succeed.

Parental Communication

We communicate to parents when the Summative Assessments will take place in advance through the half-termly curriculum updates to help you support your child in being let you know the Progress Reports which are sent home to inform you of your child's progress. Furthermore, every year group has at least one Parents' Consultation Evening where conversations take place with subject staff and Pastoral Teams to discuss students' progress and next steps.

Home Learning

For each subject that students study, they are set regular home learning tasks designed to support their classroom-based learning. This may be research work, preparatory reading, quizzes or (in the case of Key Stage 4 students) exam style questions. In Maths and English, students access home learning online via Sparx and Bedrock or Seneca respectively. As well as this, students are supported to use retrieval practice to help them recall previously learnt knowledge and are taught strategies to help them do this, ensuring that they are secure in their subject knowledge and are able to challenge themselves in all aspects of their learning.



A photograph of two female athletes in green and black uniforms practicing javelin throw on a grassy field. One athlete is in the foreground, holding the javelin, while the other is in the background, completing her throw. The background is a dense line of green trees.

“We are very proud of our large number of sports teams and dance clubs”



A young man with dark, curly hair is shown in profile, looking down and to the left. He is wearing a dark green jacket. The background is dark. A large green triangle is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing the text 'Personal Development' and '“Opportunities for all”'.

Personal Development

“Opportunities for all”





Personal Development

Personal Development at Horizon Community College extends the curriculum beyond the expected academic, technical and vocational elements to support students' individual and social development, and provide our students with opportunities to build on passion, talent and interests.

We believe in offering life enriching opportunities for all students 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.

“We provide our students with the very best opportunities to help them develop”

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 through a programme that raises awareness and deepens student understanding of modern society, enabling students to make informed choices in their life. We ensure social, moral, spiritual and cultural development is an integral aspect of students' learning within all subject areas but additionally through an in-depth programme of citizenship and tutor period debate.

Personal Development is driven through six key areas:

- Health and Wellbeing including Relationships and Sex Education (RSE),
- Careers and Enterprise,
- Cultural Literacy,
- Character Building,
- Cleaner Greener Horizon,
- Community Action.

All six areas are underpinned by an in-depth and varied student voice programme and students are rewarded for their commitment to their own personal development through the Student Experience Passport.





Careers & Enterprise

Within the Personal Development curriculum, we regard the preparation for post 16 options as important as academic learning achievements. Horizon Community College has a dedicated team of career specialists whose core mission is to help every student make the most informed decision that they can about their future choices and career options.

We have strong links with the local community to achieve this programme from our feeder primary schools, through to local colleges and connections with universities all over the country. We actively network with local and national businesses to provide great experiences for students, as well as opportunities for their future.

School Ready

From the moment our students enter Horizon in Y7 we get them to engage with their interests, strengths, weaknesses and the world around them. By the end of Y7 they will have interacted with businesses, presented in front of adults and peers and know the core values that they need to succeed in their journey through Horizon.

Work Ready

As our students move through each year, they follow a careers programme that links with their subjects and helps them develop the skills that will enable them to have successful careers. They interact with businesses in many different ways to expose them to different sectors and opportunities. We use up to date labour market information, locally and nationally, to help our students look at their options for their careers and link them to the choices they make in college.

Life Ready

By the time our students leave us in Y11 they will have had a personal guidance interview which they have been working towards since Y7 with the different careers and enrichment activities available to them. Objective and impartial careers guidance by qualified professionals is key to ensuring our students are given the most up to date information that is relevant to them. This results in confident and informed choices and sustained post-16 destinations.





Enrichment Opportunities

At Horizon Community College, our enrichment programmes ensure all students have the opportunity to develop their interests and passions beyond the classroom. We offer student enrichment at both lunchtime and after school, covering all subject areas within the school. Our extensive programme takes place in our world class facilities and stretches from lunchtime activities such as Board Games club, Breakdance, Cool and Calm club, Interform competitions, and Football to our nationally recognised STEM club, Chess club, Natural Leaders Team, Duke of Edinburgh award and much much more.

In addition to our enrichment programme at lunchtime and after school, we pride ourselves in providing continual opportunities for students to develop themselves outside of the classroom, through events such as subject based competitions, enterprise challenges, the Student Experience Passport, the various lunchtime activities that run alongside the personal development awareness events programme and much more.

We are also very proud of our large number of sports teams and dance clubs and have a number of championship winning teams including boys' and girls' Football, Cricket, Basketball, Netball, Rugby, Table Tennis, Breakdance, Sword Dancing, Contemporary Dance and Street Dance. Year 7 students are encouraged to take part in these groups from the day they start at Horizon, ensuring they benefit not just from our academic and pastoral support, but also physical and mental well-being.

All information regarding our enrichment offer, awareness events and opportunities can be found through our school Twitter account and the Parents' Hub on the college website.





“Couldn’t ask for a more
supportive school
environment for our child”

Year 7 Parent



security



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