HORIZON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

PROSPECTUS









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WELCOME TO HORIZON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Dear Prospective Students and Parents/Carers,

As you explore the possibility of joining our school community, Horizon Community College is committed to providing a nurturing yet stimulating environment where each student can excel academically, socially, and personally

At Horizon, we take pride in fostering a culture of excellence, personal development, and mutual respect. Our dedicated staff work tirelessly to create an inclusive atmosphere that celebrates diversity and encourages a passion for learning and creativity. We offer a well-rounded curriculum designed to challenge students, ignite their passions, and prepare them not only for academic success, but also for the responsibilities and opportunities of life beyond school.

Our state-of-the-art facilities, combined with a wide variety of extra-curricular activities, ensure that every student can explore their interests and develop their talents. Whether in the classroom, the sports field / dance studio or within our community, our goal is to cultivate well-rounded individuals who are ready to make positive contributions to society.

We understand that choosing the right school is an important decision. As you review this Prospectus, we hope you gain insight into the vibrant and supportive environment that makes Horizon Community College a unique place to learn and grow. We warmly invite you to visit our school, meet our dedicated staff, and experience first-hand the dynamic and welcoming community that awaits you.

Thank you for considering Horizon Community College. We look forward to the opportunity of partnering with you on your educational journey.

Kindest regards,

C Z Muddark

Mrs Huddart

Principal



WHAT MAKES HORIZON SPECIAL?



At Horizon, students:

- Enjoy the very best facilities, the very best lessons, the very best extra-curricular activities;
- 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.

We provide:

- 100 state-of-the-art learning spaces with 'dual screens';
- An average class size of 26 students (lower than the national averages);
- Specialist facilities, including dedicated Science Labs, Design Tech Workshops, Art studios, IT suites, Performing Arts spaces, a whole block specifically designed for Physical Education, and our 400 seat Horizon Theatre;
- A modern student-centred library, providing students with a comprehensive range of subject-specific fiction and non-fiction texts, along with reading and study spaces for all students to access:
- A dedicated Careers Team to support and guide your child as they plan for their future as a responsible "Work Ready" adult;
- A wider curriculum offer of Citizenship, Art, Construction, 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.



We offer:

- A dedicated Year Team for Year 7 of 20 staff (including form tutors) providing outstanding individual pastoral care;
- A free enrichment programme at lunchtime and after school, which includes subject based competitions, enterprise challenges, inter-form activities and our personal development awareness events programme;
- Extra-curricular opportunities including championship-winning Sports teams and Performing Arts groups, the Duke of Edinburgh Award, STEM Club and Enterprise projects.





WHAT MAKES US SUCCESSFUL?



Students succeed at Horizon. Their achievement have put them in the top 10% of all schools nationally.

TEACHING AND LEARNING

Students are supported by subject specialists who deliver high quality teaching.

WIDER OPPORTUNITIES

Students involve themselves at Horizon. They engage in a wealth of enrichment opportunities, developing their interests and passions beyond the classroom.



CURRICULUM CHOICE

Students study a broad and ambitious curriculum at Horizon. They leave prepared for success in an ever changing world.





ATTENDANCE

Students enjoy coming to Horizon. Their attendance sits considerably above their peers, both locally and nationally.



POST-16

Students leave Horizon ready for their future, with a guaranteed place in further education, training or employment. In 2024, 100% of students followed their chosen pathway in September.



OUR YEAR 7 PASTORAL TEAM

Our Year 7 team, together with our form tutors, provide wide-ranging and inclusive pastoral care that supports every child to thrive at Horizon:



Head of Year

The **Head of Year** oversees the pastoral care of the entire year group, ensuring that all students in their care are supported to thrive personally and make strong academic progress.

Assistant Head of Year

The **Assistant Head of Year** supports the Head of Year in maintaining high standards of behaviour, engagement, and wellbeing across the year group. They also work closely with students, parents, and staff to ensure effective support is in place.

Student Learning Officer

The Student Learning Officer provides day-to-day support to students, helping them overcome barriers to learning, supporting with attendance and punctuality, and promoting positive attitudes and behaviour throughout the school day.

Student Wellbeing Officer

The **Student Wellbeing Officers** support
students with their
mental health and
wellbeing, offering
guidance and access to
appropriate resources
or interventions, and
working proactively
to promote a positive
and supportive school
environment.

SEND Team Leader

The **SEND Team Leader** will support students with special educational needs throughout their secondary education.

Form Tutors

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 debates about college, local and national affairs. They are the first point of contact for students and parents when it comes to pastoral matters.

Early in Year 7, we invite all parents/carers to attend our Parent/Carer Information Evening where key information is shared to support success. We also host an online 'Settling In' evening, which provides you and your child with an opportunity to reflect on their start to Horizon, what is going well, and what, if any, support is required to get the most out of their time in college.



WHAT OUR STUDENTS SAY ABOUT US?



SHANTELL Class of 2029 (current Y7) I am thoroughly enjoying my first year at Horizon and I made new friends really quickly. I feel safe, happy and confident. The teachers are supportive and very helpful.

The Year 7 team meet us every morning when we arrive in the heartspace and check in with us to ensure we are ready for the day ahead. We start every day with form time, and I particularly enjoy our year group assemblies in the theatre where we celebrate our successes!

Lessons are great and we get to study so many different subjects here, with a different teacher for each one who really knows their subject. My teachers award achievement points, star of the lesson and send postcards home for the effort I put into my lessons. I recently was awarded the Principal's Award for being a positive role model at Horizon.

After school I attend Fusion Dance group – this has been a great way to make friends who also enjoy dance.

I am really looking forward to trying more enrichment **Supportive and Very** activities in Year 8!

"I feel safe, happy and confident. The teachers are supportive and very helpful."



SAM Class of 2028 (current Y8)

I am in my second year at Horizon and loving every minute! One thing I really love about school is the specialist classrooms. Design Technology is one of my favorites, especially the cooking lessons! I've learned so much about preparing different meals, and it's always fun to get creative in the kitchen.

Another highlight has been the enrichment clubs. There's one in particular that I absolutely love – StreetKingz. It's a boy's dance club where we get to work as a team experimenting with different sounds and styles, which is something I really enjoy. Plus, being part of a team where we all have a say in the music we create is really exciting. I also enjoy playing football, and I've made some great new friends through the football club. It's a perfect way to unwind after school, and I love how the team works together.

I've also been lucky enough to go on some amazing school trips. One of the best ones was a

theatre trip to see Hamilton at the Bradford Alhambra. Recently, I was rewarded for my efforts and achievements in PE at the annual Sports Award Evening, which was a huge honour. It felt great to be recognised for all the hard work and determination I've put into my sports this year.

"I am in my second year at Horizon and loving every minute!"



LAYLA
Class of 2027
(current Y9)

My time at Horizon has been incredible. I have enjoyed developing my leadership skills by being an Anne Frank Ambassador and a Horizon Ambassador at whole college events.

I've always felt supported by my teachers and Head of Year. Their recognition has motivated me to keep working hard and giving my best. I received the Principal's Award in both Year 7 and Year 9, as well as awards for Art and English. I was thrilled to receive the Head of Year Award at the annual Celebration of Achievement event, which made me feel incredibly proud of the progress I've made.

A highlight of my journey at Horizon was the trip to Belgium to visit the Battlefields in Year 8. I felt honoured to lay a wreath at the Menin Gate and hear the Last Post being played. It's something I'll never forget.

In Year 9, I completed my Duke of Edinburgh Award at the Bronze level, which was great fun! It challenged me in new ways and taught me the importance of resilience and teamwork.

Now, I'm looking forward to continuing my studies in Year 10 and Year 11 as I begin my GCSE journey.

"I've always felt supported and appreciated by my teachers."



WELLBEING

At Horizon Community College, we believe in making sure our students have access to the best possible wellbeing provision. We support students to recognise the college as a safe space and encourage them 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, which support the welfare and mental health of students during their time in secondary education. Parents/Carers can be assured that their child 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 available for their child.

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

These providers include:





Chilypep



0-19 Public Health **Nursing Service**



YMCA



Branching Minds Barnsley



Spectrum Community Health CIC

Our wellbeing offer for students complements the role of our Form Tutors, Heads of Year and Pastoral Leaders. Across all aspects of this offer, parents and carers can be confident that their child always has someone to ask for support throughout their time at Horizon.







OUR CORE VALUES

Horizon collaborates with parents and carers to foster positive behaviour and support students in making positive choices. We believe that all students should aim to be positive role models, consistently demonstrating and embracing our Core Values. We encourage students to uphold our high standards and contribute to building a strong sense of community within the college. Our staff are committed to using a positive approach to student discipline, ensuring a safe and secure environment where learning can thrive.













ASPIRATION

INDEPENDENCE

RESILIENCE

KINDNESS

INCLUSION MATTERS

Horizon values inclusion and have proudly maintained the Inclusion Quality Mark Award since 2021. After being first recognised as a Centre of Excellence, we were awarded Flagship status in 2024. Only 100 schools around the UK hold this award which recognises schools who sustain commitment to Inclusion and play a strong leadership role in developing best practice and evidence.

In our most recent inspection, the inspector summarised "Horizon Community College (HCC) is an excellent inclusive, secondary school in Barnsley. The school's vision comments on the 'changes to the economic, cultural and social landscape of Barnsley,' and leaders are aware that it is their responsibility as a collective staff body, to prepare students for this reality. They believe that all students should have access to the best education provision so that they are able to realise their ambitions for their future, and their life chances are improved by embedding outstanding practice across the school."

The inspector summarised that "Inclusion occurs naturally and is rooted firmly in every aspect of the college due entirely to the efforts of the staff, led by the inspirational and aspirational Principal and her extremely effective leadership team and staff."

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 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'. In each lesson a student is awarded 'Star of the Lesson' which recognises where they have demonstrated outstanding 'Character in the Classroom'.

Students who demonstrate outstanding 'Character in the Classroom':

Having high expectations for yourself

Taking pride in the quality of your work

Taking pride in the presentation of your work

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

Sitting up straight and tracking the speaker

Asking questions to clarify learning

Bringing your book, folder and/or kit

Being aware of your strengths and areas for development

Having a growth mindset

Wanting feedback so you can use it to improve

Consistently working hard

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 books home so that you can finish work

Responding to feedback to make progress

Completing home learning on time

Revising for assessments

Focusing on completing the 'Do Now' task as soon as you arrive at your lesson



PRAISE & REWARDS

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

- Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum Awards
- Gold Pin Badges
- Star Student Breakfast
- Positive Conduct Points
- Star Cards
- Star of the Lesson
- Naming on the Praise Board
- Positive Praise Postcards
- Positive Phone Calls Home
- Proud Thursday/Sticker/Card
- Termly Principal's Award
- Annual Celebration of Achievement Award
- End of Year Trips

The Praise and Consequence system promotes consistently high standards of behaviour and conduct across the college. Every week we celebrate 'Proud Thursday' where students have the opportunity to share their work at the Proud Thursday table in the Heartspace.



UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS

We firmly believe a common uniform creates a sense of community and helps students identify with the college.

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

To maintain a professional atmosphere within 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 and planner.

The college will loan uniform, footwear and equipment, where needed. We also run a very popular pre-loved uniform shop.

Students must wear minimal jewellery (two plain studs in each ear, one ring and one 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 and Smart Uniforms. The web address for online ordering of Horizon approved uniform is:

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

https://smartuniforms.co.uk/collections/horizon-community-college











Our curriculum aims to provide an education which enrich 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 academic, social and moral development.

Our curriculum is built around our ABC model: we ensure it is Ambitious, Appropriate, Balanced, Broad, Coherent and Connected. 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 passion and interests that will last a lifetime.

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

+ -× =

Mathematics



English



Science



Physical Education



Modern Foreign Language (French or Spanish)



History



Geography



Art



Design Technology (Cooking & Nutrition, Textiles, Graphics, Resistant Materials)



Religious Education



Citizenship



Computing



Performing Arts (Music, Drama, Dance)

All students study these subjects across 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/carers, so that they can provide support to their child as they progress through their studies.







TEACHING & LEARNING

As part of our vision to enable students to "Know More, Do More and Remember More," we place high-quality teaching at the centre of everything we do at Horizon. Teachers work hard to plan and deliver lessons that are engaging, inspiring and tailored to help every student succeed. We use the latest research and shared best practice to make sure every child receives the highest-quality education. Through this approach, students grow in confidence, learn how to work independently, gain valuable knowledge and experiences, and develop the skills they need to reach their full potential and make a positive difference in society.

Every lesson is planned and structured that students can engage fully, so they leave each one knowing more, remembering more, and being able to do more.



Do Now

Teachers set a quick, focused task at the start of every lesson which activates previous knowledge and sets a clear focus.



The Big Picture

Teachers show how the learning links to past knowledge and explains why it matters.



Teacher Input

Teachers provide clear explanations and step-by-step modelling, so students know what works and why.



Checking for Understanding

Teachers check students' progress in a range of ways. This could be through questioning, collaborative learning or whole class checks.



Independent Practice

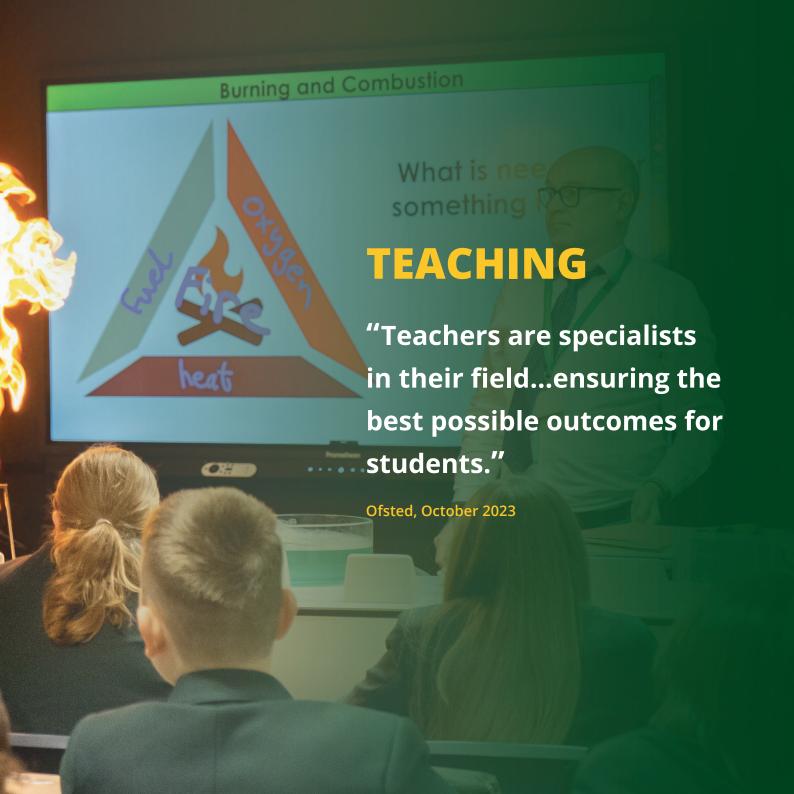
Teachers give students time to apply what they have learned, which reinforces knowledge and builds confidence.



Review Successes

Teachers help students reflect on what they have achieved, celebrate strengths and help them learn from mistakes.







READING

At Horizon we believe reading gives you power, and we support students at all levels to develop their reading skills. In lessons, students are given opportunities to develop their reading fluency through the use of high-quality texts. Underpinning this are our high expectations for wider literacy skills. In lessons, students will be challenged to develop their use of subject specific vocabulary and their oracy skills through a range of teaching and learning strategies.

In addition to this, in English, students have access to an online platform, which allows them to develop reading skills specifically appropriate to their ability.

Our Library

Overlooking our Heartspace, our 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.

Further to this, our library branches out into lessons to promote reading for pleasure, offering carefully chosen book selections and working with teachers and students to foster a culture of lifelong reading.

Reading for Pleasure

Each year, students are challenged to complete their personal reading journey. This offers them the opportunity to enjoy 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 Heartspace.

Reading Support

For students for whom reading is difficult, we offer pathways of intervention, enabling them to develop the skills they most need 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 check reading ages annually.





ASSESSMENT & PROGRESS



Assessment

At Horizon, we make use of regular Progress Checks to help support students understand how well they're developing within a subject. We also use Summative Assessments which take place in timetabled Assessment Weeks, to establish how well students are progressing through the curriculum, testing learning over time.





We support students in identifying the areas that they are proud of and their next steps through high quality feedback, reflection and response lessons. These include strategies such as modelling, redrafting work and personalised questioning. Students are encouraged to be metacognitive learners and take ownership of their next steps. This process helps them to make rapid progress in their learning, whilst developing their resilience and the confidence they need to succeed.

Parental Communication



Every half term, we communicate to parents/carers when Summative Assessments will take place through our curriculum updates. A letter is also sent home four weeks before the timetabled assessment week, containing key assessment support information and a copy of their child's personalised exam timetable. Following these Summative Assessments, a Progress Report is sent home to inform parents/carers of their child's progress.

Home Learning



The purpose of Home Learning is to ensure students are secure in their subject knowledge and are able to challenge themselves in all aspects of their learning. Regular Home Learning is set with a variety of tasks assigned to students to support their classroom-based learning. These mainly comprise of activities set via online platforms such as 'Sparx' and 'Educake' which personalise activities to maximise individual progress. Home Learning tasks may also include research work, preparatory reading or (in the case of Key Stage 4 students), exam style questions.









PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Personal Development at Horizon Community College goes beyond the core academic, technical, and vocational curriculum. It focuses on supporting students' personal and social growth, offering them opportunities to explore their passions, talents, and interests.

We provide life-enhancing experiences for all students, both within the academic curriculum and through a wide variety of extra-curricular activities. We help students develop essential character traits, including resilience, confidence, and independence, ensuring they maintain their physical and mental well-being throughout their journey.

At every stage, we offer a comprehensive careers programme preparing students for future education and their next steps, including a week of work experience in Y10, making sure they are truly "Work Ready."

Additionally, students are equipped for life in an ever-changing modern Britain through a programme that raises awareness and helps them make informed decisions about their future. We integrate social, moral, spiritual, and cultural development into all subject areas, complemented by a detailed citizenship curriculum and tutor-led debate programme in form period.

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.







ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

At Horizon Community College, our enrichment programme ensures all students have the opportunity to develop their interests and passions beyond the classroom. We offer student enrichment both at lunchtime and after school, covering all subject areas.

Our extensive programme takes place in our world-class facilities and includes: Justdance, Calm Club, Interform Competitions, Football, STEM Club, Chess Club, Natural Leaders, Duke of Edinburgh and much more.

In addition to our free enrichment programme, we are proud to offer opportunities for students to develop themselves and their passions, outside the classroom. These opportunities include: enterprise challenges, visits to museums and theatres, dance events and competitions, and local, national and international visits around the world.

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 from our academic and pastoral support, as well as developing their physical and mental well-being.

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













CAREERS EDUCATION& GUIDANCE



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 aim, 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 Year 7 we get them to engage with their interests, strengths, weaknesses and the world around them. By the end of Year 7 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 subject and helps them develop the skills that will enable them to have successful careers. They interact with business in many different ways, including the opportunity for a week's experience in the workplace during Year 10. 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 Year 11 they will have had a personal guidance interview, which they have been working towards since Year 7 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 relevent to them. This results in confident and informed choice and sustained post-16 destinations.





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