OCT

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT NEWSLETTER

SCHOOL READY; WORK READY; LIFE READY



Dear Parents/Carers & Students

Welcome to our October newsletter!

It's been a positive, productive and busy half term here at Horizon. Students have settled back into college life with enthusiasm and are embracing the wide range of opportunities available to them. We're excited to share just a few highlights with you in this month's edition of our newsletter.



Barcelona Trip

Over the half-term break, a group of Year 11 students enjoyed an unforgettable trip to Barcelona, departing on Friday 23rd October and returning in the early hours of Tuesday 27th October. During their visit, students had the opportunity to explore many of Barcelona's most famous landmarks and attractions, including the stunning Sagrada Família, the vibrant Las Ramblas, the bustling La Boqueria Market, and the historic Gothic Quarter. The group also took in spectacular views of the city, experienced Spanish culture first-hand, and learned about Barcelona's rich history and architecture.
The trip was a fantastic opportunity for students to broaden their horizons, develop their independence, and create lasting memories with friends. Staff were delighted with the students' excellent behaviour throughout the visit, and the group were a real credit to the school.

We hope everyone who attended had a wonderful experience and returned with memories that will last a lifetime.



Barnsley Civic Drama Trip

Year 10 BTEC Drama students enjoyed a trip to the Civic Theatre in Barnsley as part of their course studies in Devising. They were able to watch 'Cross The Sky Theatre Company' present their performance of "The District". This was a moving and thought-provoking piece of musical theatre which was set in a dystopian future where music had been banned. It highlighted the importance of arts and creativity in the community and was presented by disabled and autistic actors sharing personal experiences from their lives. The following day, Company Manager Jason White paid the Year 10 class a visit at Horizon to discuss the process of creating the play. The students asked intelligent questions and gained valuable information to use in their own coursework. Thank you to all involved for such a wonderful opportunity.



Restart-a-heart

On 16th October, our school proudly took part in Restart a Heart Day, a national initiative dedicated to raising awareness of the importance of CPR and equipping young people with vital life-saving skills.

We were delighted to welcome a team of dedicated paramedics who delivered hands-on CPR training to 400 Year 8 students throughout the day. During the sessions, students learned how to recognise when someone is having a cardiac arrest, how to call for emergency assistance, and, most importantly, how to perform effective chest compressions.

The training gave students the opportunity to practice their skills on CPR manikins under the guidance of experienced healthcare professionals. Their enthusiasm, maturity and willingness to learn were impressive, with many students gaining the confidence to act in an emergency situation.

Every year, thousands of people suffer cardiac arrests outside of hospital, and immediate CPR can significantly increase a person's chance of survival. By participating in Restart a Heart Day, our Year 8 students have gained knowledge that could one day help save a life.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to the paramedics who generously gave their time and expertise to make the event such a success. Their commitment to educating the next generation has left a lasting impact on our students.

Well done to all 400 Year 8 students for their excellent participation and engagement. We are incredibly proud of the life-saving skills they have learned and the confidence they have shown throughout the day.



STEM Activities

STEM club got off to a great start this year with dissections. Our pupils have had a great time dissecting hearts, crickets and chicken wings. They also learnt how to make their own pin hole cameras. It has been great to see so many pupils from years 7 to 10 attending.







Ambitions Fair

The Careers Team held their annual Ambitions Fair on the 20th October. Around 30 representatives from colleges, 6th forms, independent training providers, and employers volunteered their time to talk to our students as they begin to discover the routes available to them after they leave Horizon.
Year 7 students visited the event and completed a career themed activity as they visited each stall. Completed postcards were entered into a prize draw – the winning entries will receive a prize over the coming days! The event was then open to all students and their families.

PGL Trip

All Year 7 students have had the opportunity to visit the PGL activity centre at Deane Valley as part of our personal development programme. They attended with their form and form tutor to support the making of new friends, team building and resilience!

The students have taken part in zip lining, buggy building, archery, and vertical playground! All students got fully involved and supported each other, overcoming nerves and trying new skills.

Following the trip Year 7 students have started to record their activities in their Compass document. Over the course of the year we hope all Year 7 students will complete their Compass Navigator





Sports Leaders

October has been a busy and exciting month for our Sports Leader Ambassadors, providing them with fantastic opportunities to develop their skills, confidence and understanding of sports leadership. They have supported a range of events, including orienteering, cross country and girls' netball competitions, taking on a variety of important roles such as officiating, marshalling, coaching, organising and problem solving.

This month also saw us celebrate the achievements of students who successfully completed the Leadership Skills Foundation Level 2 Sports Leadership Qualification. It was fantastic to recognise their hard work and commitment at our celebration event, where they were presented with their certificates and had the opportunity to hear some inspiring words from the Young Mayor of Barnsley and Rogan Ravenhill, Barnsley FC goalkeeper and former school Sports Leader.

It has been a fantastic month of learning, leadership and celebration, and we are incredibly proud of the contribution our Sports Leaders continue to make.









Sporting News

October Sports Round-Up

It has been a fantastic start to the school sporting calendar, with our students representing the school across football, netball, cross country and rugby. From impressive league victories to tournament success, there have been plenty of achievements to celebrate!
Congratulations to all our players and teams for their commitment, teamwork and determination. Here are the highlights from the past 5 weeks.

Football Highlights

Our football teams have made an exciting start to their ESFA (English school Football Association) cup campaigns, with some excellent performances and impressive goal-scoring displays.

U16 Boys' Football

The U16 boys got their ESFA campaign off to a brilliant start with a 5–1 victory against Selby High School.

U12 Girls' Football

The U12 girls secured an excellent 3–0 win against Penistone Grammar School in the first round of the ESFA competition.

U12 Boys' Football

The U12 boys faced Kirk Balk Academy in the second round of the ESFA competition. Despite a determined performance, they narrowly missed out in an entertaining 5–3 defeat.

U16 Girls' Football

The U16 girls took on Penistone Grammar School in the second round of the ESFA competition. They battled hard but were beaten 4–1.

U12 Boys' Football (B Team)

The U12 B team produced a fantastic performance against Astrea Academy Dearne in the second round of the ESFA competition, securing an emphatic 9–1 victory. A brilliant result for the team!

Barnsley School League

Year 9 Boys' Football

The Year 9 boys continued the winning form with a convincing 4–1 victory against TASE in the Barnsley Schools League.

Year 8 Boys' Football

The Year 8 boys also recorded a 4–1 win against TASE, making it a double success for our boys' football teams!

Year 7 Boys Football

The first league match for these boys, a great 5-1 against Astrea Academy Netherwood.

Year 8 Boys Football

A second league match resulted in another win, 5-3 against Astrea Academy Netherwood.

U13 Girls' Utilita Cup

Our Year 8 and Year 7 girls entered a great tournament at Oakwell, home of Barnsley FC. So much talent shown on the day by all teams that entered. One team made it to the semi finals and placed 3rd overall. The second team just missed out on a semi final place by one goal.

We are super proud of each and everyone one of you.





Netball News

Our netball teams have also been busy competing in the Barnsley Schools Tournaments, with some excellent individual performances.

U15 Netball

The U15 enjoyed success at the Barnsley Schools Tournament, finishing first. Congratulations to the team.

Year 8 Netball

Two teams entered this competition and represented the school at the Barnsley Schools Tournament.
Well done to both teams for their efforts and commitment!

Year 7 Netball

Our Year 7 netball teams took part in the Barnsley Schools Tournament, gaining valuable experience and showcasing their talent. Congratulations to all the players on their achievements!

Rugby Success

Year 9 and Year 10 Rugby

A huge congratulations to our Year 9 and Year 10 rugby teams, who were crowned **overall winners at the Barnsley Schools Tournament!**

This is a fantastic achievement and a testament to the players' teamwork, determination, and hard work. Well done to everyone involved!

Cross Country

Fantastic turn out for this year's cross country competitions. We had 37 students participate in all 3 events, with some of our students finishing in the top 10 of each race. We can't wait to see who gets selected for the South Yorkshire finals in 2027.





Black History Month

October has been Black History Month. Every year, schools come together to remember, reflect and rejoice in the stories and contributions of Black people.

Throughout October month, students have heard about stories that highlight some of the incredible figures in Black British history. These stories served a reminder that history is not just something that happens to people - it's something they help create. We have listened and reflected on the power of these voices, to remember the importance of making sure that everyone's story is heard.

Send My Friend To School

Two of our students recently had the exciting opportunity to attend the Labour Party Conference as part of the Send My Friend to School campaign, an initiative that empowers young people to speak up for every child's right to education around the world.

During the conference, the students joined young people from across the country to learn more about global education issues and the challenges faced by millions of children who are unable to access quality schooling. They also had the opportunity to meet with politicians, campaigners and education advocates, sharing their perspectives and highlighting the importance of ensuring that every child has the chance to learn and succeed.

The experience provided valuable insight into how political decisions can influence education both in the UK and internationally. The students developed their confidence in public speaking, advocacy and leadership while representing our school and the wider community.

Reflecting on the visit, both students spoke about how inspiring it was to see young people making their voices heard on issues that matter. They returned with a greater understanding of global citizenship and a renewed passion for creating positive change.

We are incredibly proud of the way they represented the school throughout the event. Their participation demonstrates the importance of encouraging young people to engage with social and political issues and to recognise the impact they can have in shaping a better future for others.

Congratulations to both students on this fantastic achievement and for being outstanding ambassadors for our school and the Send My Friend to School campaign. Their commitment to supporting educational opportunities for all is truly commendable.



Key dates in November

College re-opens for half term 2 on Monday 2nd November

11th November
Remembrance

17th November
Year 7 Tutor Parents Evening

16th - 20th Novmber
Y11 Vocational & Art Mocks

23rd November
INSET Day

24th Novrmber - 4th December
Y11 Exam Mocks

NOVEMBER CORE VALUE of the month is RESPECT



RESPECT

We treat others the way we would like to be treated. We celebrate that everyone is different, we are inclusive, and we embrace diversity.

Stay up to date with us on Instagram!

@horizoncommunitycollege