Horizon Community College

Year 8 Information Evening

16th September 2026









The Year 8 School Team



Assistant Principal - Behaviour and Attitudes
Miss Sheldon



Year 8
Head of Year
Mr Cousins



Year 8
Assistant Head of Year
Miss Hurley



Y8
Pastoral Manager
Mr Ripley



Associate Vice Principal - Designated Safeguarding Lead
Mrs Ola-Craig



Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead
Miss Fox

Student Wellbeing Team



Year 8
Mrs Wilson

Role of the Form Tutor

Your child's form tutor will be your first point of call should you wish to contact the College. They will see your child for 20 minutes at the beginning of each school day.

They can support with:

- Signing planners for appointments
- Issues regarding equipment, uniform and friendships
- They will encourage your child to become a positive role model by developing the college core values:

  Aspiration, Pride, Independence, Resilience, Respect, Kindness.

Core Values



Attendance

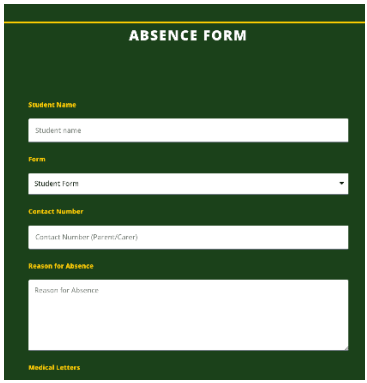
Our goal is for every student at Horizon Community College to achieve 100% attendance.



Should you need to contact the College's Attendance Team, please email **Attendance@horizoncc.co.uk**.

If your child is absent from College, you can report their absence using any of the following methods:

- Via the **Arbor app**
- By completing the **absence form on the College website**, located under the **Attendance** section (see image below)
- Via the **College telephone system**



Term Dates

AUTUMN HALF TERM 1
TUESDAY 1ST SEPTEMBER (INSET DAY)
WEDNESDAY 2ND SEPTEMBER (YEAR 7 ONLY)
THURSDAY 3RD SEPTEMBER (ALL YEARS RETURN)
HALF TERM HOLIDAY: SATURDAY 24TH OCTOBER

AUTUMN HALF TERM 2
TERM STARTS: MONDAY 2ND NOVEMBER
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY: SATURDAY 19TH DECEMBER

SPRING HALF TERM 1
TERM STARTS: MONDAY 4TH JANUARY
HALF TERM HOLIDAY: SATURDAY 13TH FEBRUARY

SPRING HALF TERM 2
TERM STARTS: MONDAY 22ND FEBRUARY
EASTER HOLIDAY: FRIDAY 26TH MARCH

SUMMER HALF TERM 1
TERM STARTS: MONDAY 12TH APRIL
HALF TERM HOLIDAY: SATURDAY 29TH MAY

SUMMER HALF TERM 2
TERM STARTS: MONDAY 7TH JUNE
TERM ENDS: WEDNESDAY 21ST JULY

INSET DAYS
Tuesday 1st September 2026, Friday 23rd October 2026,
Monday 23rd November 2026, Friday 18th December 2026,
Monday 4th January 2027, Friday 12th February 2027,
Friday 25th June 2027

Home Learning

Home Learning will always be set on a Friday, every week for Sparx Maths (Maths) and Sparx Reader (English) and every 2 weeks for Science, Geography, History & MFL.

When home learning is set:

- Students will be given an explanation of exactly what is expected of them.

- Students will be given time to write their home learning down in their planner – please check their planners weekly.

Home Learning Club:

To support students with their home learning, the College will be running a 'Home Learning Club' three times a week which students are encouraged attend. The sessions will run as follows:

Monday IT11: 3:20pm-4pm

Wednesday IT11: 3:20pm-4pm

Thursday IT11: 3:20pm-4pm

After a home learning deadline has passed, parents/carers will be informed of any home learning which was not completed the previous week via email.

Home Learning will begin from Friday, week 2 (Friday 11th September).

Literacy Matters

Sparx Reader is where all home learning for English will happen this year - developing reading for all students.

Students log in by clicking on the Sparx Reader link on the student hub, clicking on log in and searching for Horizon Community College. They then log in using the Microsoft option.

The target for students is 300 Sparx Reader Points (SRP) a week.



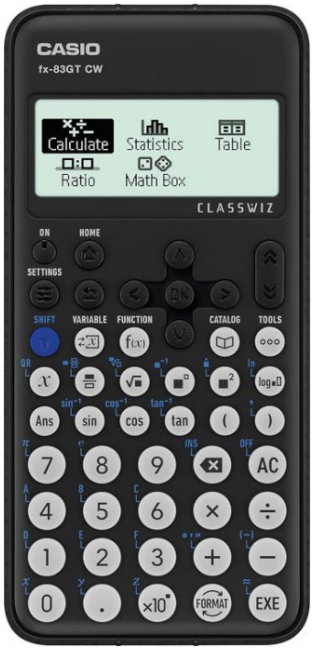
Numeracy Matters

Sparx Maths is where all home learning for Mathematics will happen this year.

You can log in here at www.sparxmaths.com - and click on the student login, and search for Horizon Community College.

Note: Should your child forget their username or password for Sparx they can login through their 365 email account. This will automatically sign them in.

To support in your child's learning,it would be great if you could purchase a calculator: Casio FX-83GT-CW



Horizon Community College

PRAISE

Praise and Rewards at Horizon CC

- Data Collections Effort
- 5 Positive Conduct Points
- Enrichment
- Outstanding Work
- Star of the Lesson
- Core Value
- Postcards Home
- 100% Attendance (Weekly)
- Home Learning
- Getting It Right
- Yellow Dot Badges
- Proud Thursday

How to earn achievement points

At Horizon students are encouraged to collect achievement points as our praise currency. Students receive achievement points in a variety of ways, as these accumulate students' efforts are recognised.

Reward Type		How many achievement points?
Data Collection effort awards	Following a data collection, we calculate students' **average effort 'score'** and add achievement points according to this average. Points added range from 30 points for receiving an outstanding **effort** grade in every subject down to 5 points for receiving a good **effort** grade in every subject.	30, 20, 10 or 5 points awarded dependent on average **effort** grade
5 Positive Conduct points	Positive conduct points are awarded during lessons, lunch and break time. For every five points achieved, students receive 5 achievement points and are entered into a prize draw at the upcoming half term achievement assembly.	5
Postcard Home	Teachers can send praise postcards each week to celebrate the achievements and efforts of students.	5
Star of the Lesson	Every lesson, teachers can award one student to be recognised as the Star of the Lesson. This may be for effort throughout the lesson, verbal contributions, pride in the presentation of work etc.	5
Yellow Dot badge	During the year, yellow dot badges are awarded to students during unstructured times for being a positive role model within college. Form tutors will award students with 5 achievement points for each dot badge a student receives.	5
Core Value	Each month we focus on one of our core values and teachers can award an achievement point when they see a student demonstrating the core value in their lesson.	1
Outstanding work, effort and contributions	Teachers award achievement points in lessons to recognise outstanding work, effort and contributions.	1
Proud Thursday	As part of Proud Thursday, staff visit lessons across departments to recognise and celebrate the pride shown in students' work. Students receive an achievement point as well as a positive conduct point in their planner.	1

Home Learning	Home learning completion receives verbal recognition from the classroom teacher but also through an achievement point when a student goes above and beyond.	1
100% weekly attendance	Students receive an achievement point each week, if they have 100% attendance.	1
Getting it right	Each week, if a student achieves 0 behaviour points, 100% attendance and 0 home learning concerns, they are automatically rewarded with an achievement point for 'Getting it Right'.	1
Enrichment	We take great pride in our enrichment programme and encourage all students to attend at least one activity per week. Attendance to any activity at the end of the college day is rewarded with an achievement point.	1

How else is positive behaviour recognised at Horizon CC?

Principal's Award	One student from each year group is selected every term by the Head of Year to be celebrated for their commitment to learning, high attendance and contribution to wider school community. As recognition for their success they are presented with a voucher and a certificate, presented to them by the Principal. These students are also celebrated through twitter/X and a personal letter sent home.
Praise Assemblies	During the last week of every half term all students will attend an achievement assembly hosted by their Head of Year, where the hard work, positive attitude and achievements of students will be celebrated and rewarded with vouchers.
Attendance Assemblies	All students will attend an attendance celebration assembly each half term. 100% attendance is celebrated but there is also a focus on improved attendance and punctuality to college.
Attendance Initiatives	High attendance is rewarded with certificates, letters, home, rewards for 100% attendance and a prize for the highest attending tutor group in each school.
Gold Star Pin Badges	Following a data collection, the top 10% of students based on their effort scores, are rewarded by being presented a gold pin star badge at a celebration assembly. These students wear these gold star pin badges on their blazers with pride.

Star Student Breakfast	Students who achieve an average 1 for effort after a data collection are invited to a celebration breakfast with members of college leadership in a VIP area of the canteen. Again, these students are celebrated through twitter/X and the college website.
Reward Trips	We celebrate students' success with reward events during and at the end of the academic year. Students net achievement points are used to select invitees for these events.

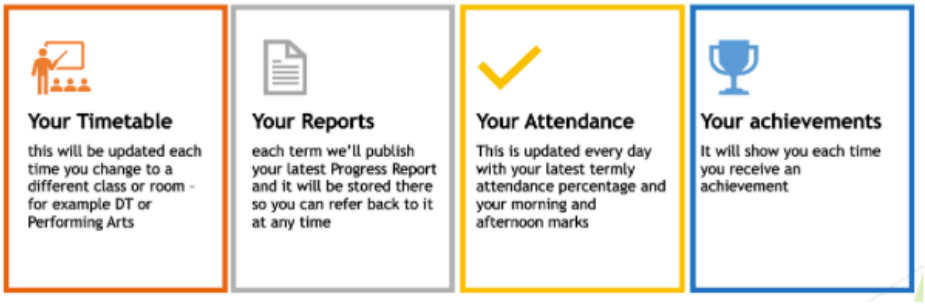
How do achievement points add up?



Bronze Award	When students receive 100 net points, they are awarded their Bronze Award. They are presented with their Bronze certificate in form period and a text message is sent home.
Silver Award	When students receive 200 net points, they are awarded their Silver Award. The Silver Award certificate is presented in assembly and a postcard is sent home.
Gold Award	When students receive 300 net points, they are awarded their Gold Award. The Gold Award certificate is presented in the Principal's office and a congratulations letter is sent home. Once students receive their Gold Award they are also invited on the whole school rewards trip at the end of the academic year.
Platinum Award	When students receive 450 net points, they are awarded their Platinum Award. The Platinum Award certificate is presented in the Principal's office and a congratulations letter is sent home. Students will be invited to join the Principal and their Head of Year for an afternoon tea in the summer term to recognise their fantastic efforts.

Parent App

The Arbor Parent Portal App allows you to track and support your child whilst in school. You will be able to see their:



How do I get the App?

Check your email for an invitation

Download the App from the App Store or Google Play

Follow the instructions provided in the registration email

Should you require support please contact: *info@horizoncc.co.uk*

Key Dates

- Assessment Week 1: w/c 02/11/26
- Data Collection 1: w/c 30/11/26
- Assessment Week 2: w/c 22/03/27
- Data Collection 2: w/c 03/05/27
- Year 8 Parent's Evening: Tuesday 15th June 2026

What support is available to my family?

Great Childhoods Ambition

Barnsley's Great Childhoods Ambition is a commitment to improving the lives and futures of our children and young people, providing a range of experiences and learning opportunities to help give them the best start in life and adulthood.

If you're a young person or family, you can find out about activities and support as part of our Great Childhoods Ambition by visiting the website: Great Childhoods Ambition *https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/services/children-young-people-and-families/great-childhoods-ambition/*

Virtual Family Hubs

If you would like to find out more about fun things to do, friendly faces or gain advice or a little extra support, Best Start Family Hubs can be extremely useful.

The closest Family Hub can be found in Barnsley Market (Unit 14-18 – behind Market Kitchen). Family Hubs are open Monday – Thursday from 9am to 5pm, Fridays from 9am to 4.30pm and Saturdays 9am to 4pm.

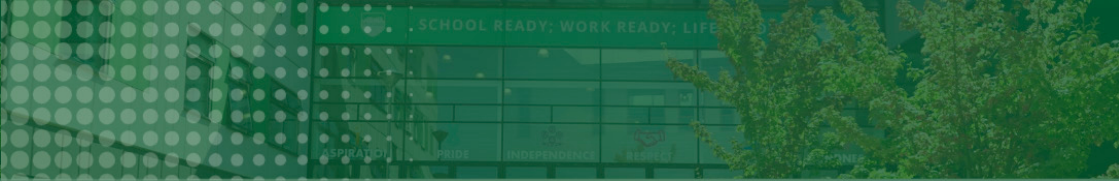
If you are unable to attend in person, you can also contact via telephone 0800 0345 340 or email *infofid@barnsley.gov.uk*.

Alternatively, scan the QR code to access the Virtual Family Hub: Synergy - Enquiry *https://barnsley.cloud.servelec-synergy.com/Synergy/FindoutaboutBestStartinLifeFamilyHubs.aspx*

Barnsley Local Offer

The Local Offer is a website that makes it easier to find out about what support is available for students with identified special education needs in the local area – this includes courses available and ways you can get involved.

Local Offer Link *https://barnsley.cloud.servelec-synergy.com/Synergy/Local_Offer/*



Parent Support Programmes

Sleep Success: Practical tips and guidance to help your child – and you – get better sleep.

Talking Teens: Support for parents of teenagers, focusing on communication, confidence, and understanding.
Scan here to book your place: Barnsley Family Hubs
https://www.eventbrite.com/o/barnsley-family-hubs-7922835327

A range of online programmes can be also be accessed by using the code TOWNSPIRIT: Synergy - Enquiry
https://barnsley.cloud.servelec-synergy.com/Synergy/ParentSupport.aspx

Barnsley Foodbank

Any one can reach crisis point – Barnsley food banks are available if this happens.
Get Help | Barnsley Foodbank
https://barnsley.foodbank.org.uk/get-help/

Barnsley Support Services

At times, our students and families require more specialist support. Scan this link to find out about what services are available. The Family Hub and our Wellbeing team can also guide you towards the most appropriate services for your family.
https://chilypep.org.uk/home-barnsley/open-up-directory-2/

We are currently constructing a new page of the school website, highlighting how families can access support when needed. If you require support throughout the year, visit the website for more information or contact us via email at: *info@horizoncc.co.uk*

Horizon Community College
Dodworth Road
Barnsley
South Yorkshire
S70 6PD

+44 (01226) 704230

info@horizoncc.co.uk

www.horizoncc.co.uk

horizoncommunitycollege

