

SCHOOL READY; WORK READY; LIFE READY



Dear Families,

Welcome to our February newsletter where once again we are proud and excited to share with you what has been happening in and out of Horizon! From trips to New York, first aid qualifications and driving experiences – there have been many opportunities for students to enhance their leadership, resilience and independence.

Happy reading!

NEW YORK CITY

We are excited to share some highlights of our annual Year 10 Business trip to New York City, which was a resounding success! Our students had the opportunity to explore one of the most vibrant cities in the world. From the moment we arrived, the students showed a deep level of respect and enthusiasm, making the trip enjoyable for everyone involved. Their positive attitude and maturity was on full display as they navigated the bustling streets of New York City, explored famous landmarks, and engaged in educational activities. Our students had the chance to visit iconic sites such as the Statue of Liberty, Central Park, Times Square, and the Empire State Building. Each stop offered an invaluable

opportunity for learning and exploration. They were also able to engage with local history and architecture, gaining insights into the city's rich history. Beyond the educational aspects, the students had fun ice skating in Central Park, indulging in classic New York pizzas and exploring the local shops. Hopefully the trip will be something they will remember for years to come.



DANCE SHOW & SPRING MARKETS

HD 2025 was a huge success as once again our talented students brought the Horizon Theatre stage to life with over 40 dance pieces created in enrichment classes since October.

The show featured 180 dancers from Year 7 to Year 11 and was a spectacle of jazz, contemporary, hip hop, neon light suit technology and

sword dancing among many other incredible moments.

Students displayed their talent, passion, energy and dedication and also showed immense pride in their work! We are incredibly proud of every single student involved.

Before each dance show commenced, we hosted a bustling Spring Fair in the college heart-space. It was wonderful to see our community come together with fantastic stalls from

local businesses and our talented students. Our students showcased their enterprise skills, with a wide variety of homemade items produced, marketed and sold. Refreshments were also on sale in the college dining hall including Frappuccino's, chicken burgers and homemade cakes! The event raised over £750 in profit for Barnsley Hospice, and over £250 for LimbBo. Thank you to everyone who supported and made the evenings such a fantastic experience.



FIRST AID QUALIFICATION

As a reward for their conscientious start to the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, Year 9 students were invited to a fantastic opportunity to gain a free Highfield's Level 3 Award in Emergency First Aid at Work, delivered by Crossroads Training.

The training took place off site and students were involved in practical participation

as well as a formal test of multiple-choice questions. To achieve a pass, students must attain at least 11 out of 15 questions correctly. This is a mandatory requirement from the Awarding Organisation and therefore students must be able to participate and demonstrate CPR on the manikins.

We are very pleased, and proud, to announce that all the students passed with flying colours and achieved their First Aid Award!



CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

Between the 3rd and 9th of February, the Horizon Community participated in Children's Mental Health Week, a time dedicated to raising awareness about mental well-being. During this week, our Wellbeing and

Anti-Bullying Ambassadors received valuable training from Frankie at MIND, where they learned key insights into understanding mental health. Equipped with this knowledge, our Ambassadors took an active role in supporting the cause by organising and running stalls throughout the week, engaging with the community and fostering important conversations

around mental health.

Our Ambassadors also actively contributed to enhancing students' understanding of "Know Yourself, Grow Yourself" by leading engaging sessions in the Heart Space during lunchtimes, alongside physical activities that promote mental health and overall well-being.



NUCLEAR POWER STATION TRIP

Year 9 students recently visited Hartlepool Nuclear Power Station to explore sustainable energy production and careers in geography. During the trip, students had the opportunity to see firsthand how energy is generated in an

environmentally-conscious way, with a focus on the role of nuclear energy in reducing carbon emissions. They also visited the coast to observe the effects of sea level rise and discuss potential management strategies to protect vulnerable areas. The students learned about various careers in the energy and environmental

sectors and gained valuable insights into the importance of sustainability. This experience emphasised the vital role geography plays in addressing global challenges and encouraged students to take ownership of our planet's future through responsible energy practices and environmental stewardship.



NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK

The Careers team marked National Apprenticeship Week by holding various apprenticeship workshops to groups of students. The workshops provided hints and tips on how to source

and apply for opportunities with different companies and highlighted the importance of standing out from the crowd through work experience and volunteering.

There are over 700 types of apprenticeships across 15 sectors and it is important that students are aware of all the opportunities open

to them. The Careers Team were grateful to Barnsley College and Total Training who volunteered their time to welcome students in the Careers Cafe and discuss the range of post 16 pathways open to them.



SAFER INTERNET DAY

On the 10th February, we participated in the National Safer Internet Day, a day where we raise awareness of cyber security and the importance of staying safe online.

This year we chose the theme Dangers of AI, designed to raise awareness of the darker side of Artificial Intelligence. Students were shown a video comparing how useful AI can be in our lives, but also how that same technology can be used inappropriately to pose a risk to those using it, including deepfakes, voice theft and

misrepresentation of images online.

The message to take away is to think what is online, think about your digital footprint and think how your profile could be misused.

Think before you post ...

- T** Is it **true**?
- H** Is it **helpful**?
- I** Is it **inspiring**?
- N** Is it **necessary**?
- K** Is it **kind**?

Before you say something, stop and think how you'd feel if someone said it to you.

Safer Internet Week

Don't believe everything you read online

- A** **ASK** Is this relevant? Is this helpful? What do other people think?
- B** **BASE** Is this factual? Does this match what we know already?
- C** **CHECK** Where did this come from? Can you trust the source?

Too good to be true...

- S** **Seems** too good to be true
- C** **Contacted** out of the blue
- A** **Asked** for personal details
- M** **Money** is requested

If you can spot a scam, you can stop a scam.

"DON'T BELIEVE EVERYTHING YOU READ ON THE INTERNET"
- ABRAHAM LINCOLN

MOTHER LANGUAGE DAY

On Thursday 13th February we celebrated International Mother Language Day (officially 21st February). Horizon is very proud of its diverse population, with over forty different languages spoken by our students and staff. Our amazing student language ambassadors planned a range of different activities throughout the day, which included a treasure hunt, language quizzes and a very popular poetry competition. Well done to all students who got involved in the fun!



YOUNG DRIVERS EXPERIENCE

During the month of December, we rewarded Year 11 students who achieved 100% attendance with a selection box and they were also entered into a prize draw for a chance to win a Young Drivers driving lesson! 25 lucky students were randomly selected for

this exciting opportunity and on Tuesday, February 4th, these students enjoyed a 20-minute driving lesson with the Young Drivers team. The experience was incredibly positive, as they learned new skills behind the wheel and gained valuable life experience that will benefit them in the future. The students had a fantastic time, and the event was a memorable highlight of their school year.



MARCH
CORE VALUE
of the month is
INDEPENDENCE

INDEPENDENCE

We take responsibility for our success.
 We take control of our future.

KEY DATES IN FEBRUARY

- W/c 3rd March**
- Y8 parents Evening (4th March)**
- National Careers Week**
- International Women’s Day**
- World Book Day (6th March)**
- W/c 10th March**
- Y11 Mock Exams commence**
- Science Week**
- Comic relief (14th March)**
- w/c 17th March**
- Individual Liberty Week**
- World Poetry Day (21st March)**

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