



The Sixth Form
at Harrogate Grammar School
Excellence For All

21 December 2023

Dear Parents/Carers and Year 12 Students,

The Sixth Form Team and our teachers have been impressed by the focus and commitment of Year 12 students in their first term. In this busy term, Year 12 students have made the step up from GCSE to Sixth Form study, committed to undertaking 30 hours of service within the school, and many students have represented the school with pride at a host of school events.

The term ahead

8 January	Start of term - full timetabled lessons in school
10 January	Student Leadership Team application deadline
19 January	Home study day
23 January	Career Pathway Talks – in Progression lesson
12 – 18 February	Half term
19 March	Career Pathway Talks – in Progression lesson
19 March	Higher Education and Apprenticeship Evening – 7pm in the Forum
22 March	End of Spring term

Academic support

In addition to the parent consultation evening, all students and parents/carers have been sent a grade report for this term. We continue to closely monitor student progress and we will run a series of interventions to support identified students. Where concerns arise, we will communicate with parents/carers.

In the Spring Term, students will focus on refining their study habits and consolidating their learning. As students are introduced to new content within their lessons, it is important that they commit time to reviewing and retrieving knowledge that has been studied since September. Teachers will set regular retrieval tasks, but students also have access to a range of tasks within the Year 12 Study class on Showbie which provides structure for the 5 hours of independent work in each subject that students are expected to commit to each week.

Our curriculum summaries have been updated for next term and can be found by clicking [here](#). Parents often ask about how they can help their child at home and ask about what they are learning next. The curriculum summaries are designed to give an overview of what is being taught over the next term.

Wellbeing support

Form Tutors and our Student Support Managers remain the first point of contact for students if they have any questions or concerns. We prioritise the positive mental health and wellbeing of our student community, and we encourage students to come forward to speak to a member of the team about any concerns.

In Tuesday morning Progression sessions, students have covered a range of important issues including effective study strategies, managing stress, road safety, drugs and vaping, artificial intelligence and fake news, and positive mental health. In addition, students have embraced the activities put on in our ‘wellbeing weeks’ and have engaged superbly with a range of charity events including creating a mosaic with Artisan, ‘wear it pink day’ for breast cancer research, and our Christmas shoebox appeal.



Harrogate Grammar School, Arthurs Avenue, Harrogate, North Yorkshire HG2 0DZ

Tel: 01423 535235 | HGSsixthform@hgs.rklt.co.uk | www.harrogategrammar.co.uk

Headteacher: Mr N Renton | Director of Sixth Form & Assistant Headteacher: Mr B Twitchin

Harrogate Grammar School is part of the Red Kite Learning Trust, a charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales with company number 7523507, registered office: as above.

Our Privacy Notice can be found on: <https://www.harrogategrammar.co.uk/our-school/our-policies/statutory-documentation/>



Over the Spring term, Year 12 Progression sessions will cover sexual consent, disability awareness, cultural diversity, managing social media, personal health and the world of work. This aspect of the Progression programme is designed to inform students about personal and social issues and to help them to make positive choices in early adulthood.

Progression support

Year 12 students have been encouraged to start planning their future beyond the Sixth Form through our focus on 'vision'. Students have become familiar with the Unifrog platform and have used it to explore a range of future study and employment options. Students have also visited a university, and have attended Career Pathway Talks.

In the Spring term, students will continue to explore post-18 choices including university, apprenticeships and gap years. Students will take part in a further set of Career Pathway Talks and, in January, we will be launching preparations for the World of Work Week which will take place in the final week of the summer term. Students will engage with a meaningful work experience opportunity during this week which helps to build confidence, develop employability skills, and provides an opportunity to gain an insight into a job sector that they wish to pursue. Students will seek out their own placement through personal contacts or by writing to workplaces or companies that interest them. This process will be supported in school and further details will be communicated in January.

Mrs Mitchell, our independent careers adviser is available for students to contact via: MitchellK@hgs.rklt.co.uk. Mrs Mitchell provides advice on a broad range of career options, and is able to provide students with information about a variety of fantastic apprenticeship and job opportunities.

Student Leadership

The application process for the new Student Leadership Team has been launched. All Prefects, School Council Reps, and House Reps are able to apply to become part of this team. The details of the application process can be found [here](#). The deadline for applications is Wednesday 10 January.

Routines and Expectations

In advance of returning to school in January, we would like to take this opportunity to remind students and parents/carers of the following:

- Full details of the routines and expectations can be found in the [Sixth Form handbook](#)
- Sixth Form students are required to dress smartly, and to wear their ID badge at all times. The expectations of the dress code can be found [here](#)
- Year 12 students register with their form tutor at 08.50 every morning, and must attend all timetabled lessons and Study periods.
- Please call Mrs Reed (01423 535236) or email reedt@hgs.rklt.co.uk before 10am in the case of illness. If at all possible, medical and dental appointments need to be made outside school time.

We would like to thank you for your support this term. Year 12 students have made a fantastic start to the Sixth Form, and we look forward to working closely with students and parents/carers to support success in the future. We hope that all students have a well-deserved rest before they return.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Sixth Form Team if you have any questions about the term ahead: HGSsixthform@hgs.rklt.co.uk

We wish you all an enjoyable and relaxing festive season.

Yours faithfully



Mr B Twitchin
Director of Sixth Form
Assistant Headteacher