

## Harrogate Grammar Connect Alumni Newsletter

The 2023-24 Autumn term has been action packed with lots of events, trips, an open morning and numerous sporting fixtures which have involved student participation from all years.

The PTA successfully organised a quiz night, used uniform sale and Christmas raffle generating funds towards a new minibus. In addition to this, the school also raised money through the Hope Walk in support of Papyrus and half termly food bank donations were received from Year 7, 8 and 9 students which were donated to Resurrected Bites and The Trussell Trust.

Many alumni have joined our new social media platforms, thank you for your support. As part of the move to these new platforms, we will now publish future alumni newsletters on our website ([Harrogate Grammar School - Red Kite Learning Trust - Alumni](#)), rather than by email. Newsletters are published on a termly basis, and we will notify you via our social media platforms when newsletters go live. To get in touch with us, please email [hgsalumni@hgs.rkt.co.uk](mailto:hgsalumni@hgs.rkt.co.uk) or message us via our online platforms (links to platforms on our website).

## School News and Activities

### End of Year Message

Please click [here](#) to read the end of year message from Mr Renton – Headteacher.

### Remembrance Evening

We hosted our annual evening of remembrance in the Main Hall on Thursday 9 November. There was a moving and poignant collection of art work from our Year 7 students with music, poetry, readings, drama and dance performed during this memorable evening.



### Sustainability Club

Our sustainability club recently launched a recycling scheme throughout the school where recycling bins have been strategically placed to encourage responsible disposal of waste.



The club has also planted trees donated by the Woodland Trust, including varieties of silver birch, rowan, and wild cherry.

Car free Friday on 1 December was a huge success with many students taking part in this regular school event.

## Careers Fair

What a great turn out for the Careers Fair which was held in partnership with NYBEP on Thursday 23 November. Students were able to visit stands from universities and local companies offering Post-16 and 18 pathways. Thank you to the 70 exhibitors, including many from our alumni community, who made this event such a success.



## Senior Citizens Coffee Morning



HGS were delighted to welcome our local community to the Senior Citizens Festive Coffee morning on Wednesday 13 December. As usual, Year 7 and Sixth Form students hosted this event and there was music played by one of HGS ensembles and a raffle.



## Christmas Concert

On Thursday 14 December, we held our annual Christmas Concert showcasing the talents of our students. Donations were gratefully received for the Susie Rymer Foundation. To view videos from the concert, please visit our [alumni X account](#).

## Celebration Evening

Our annual Celebration of Achievement evening was held on Wednesday 20 December. We were delighted to celebrate the success of our students, including our most recent Alumni who we warmly welcomed back to receive their awards.

Thank you to HGS alumna, Amy Rees, who was our special guest for the evening. Amy spoke fondly of her education at HGS and provided an inspiring speech to all the prize winners. Congratulations to all the prize winners.



## Peer Mentors

This term we have trained over 20 Sixth Form students in Youth Mental Health Awareness to become HGS Peer Mentors, helping younger students who need help and support. Thank you to The Ostrich Foundation and Pat Sowa who have funded and facilitated this scheme.

## Spanish Exchange

In November, our Spanish exchange students (currently studying GCSE or A Level Spanish) jetted off on the away leg of their Spanish Exchange trip to Toledo. The students bumped into HGS alumna Ms Cirulli on one of their activities.



## Netball Success

Well done to our U19, U16 and U14 netball teams who took part in the National Schools Area tournaments. Some amazing netball skills and determination on display. Good luck to the U16 and U19 teams who made it into the County tournaments on the 3 and 4 February!



## HGS Publications



Sula in Year 8 published her first book, 'The Alchemist's Prophecy', a tale of magic and adventure. Read the news article [here](#).

Click on the link below to access a blog written by Mr Renton, Headteacher, regarding flexible working:

[Embracing flexible working at secondary level teacher recruitment working workload teaching schools education \(sec-ed.co.uk\)](https://www.sec-ed.co.uk/blog/embracing-flexible-working-at-secondary-level-teacher-recruitment-working-workload-teaching-schools-education)

## Alumni news



HGS alumnus and composer, Matthew Grouse, was nominated for an Ivor Novello award with his piece 'Silberblau'.

Congratulations to Lillie Houseman (A Level Art student) who has recently received the 'Top 10 to watch' award alongside an award from Tu Clothing.



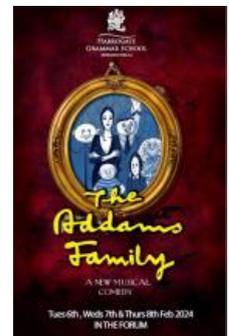
Good luck to Lucy Ireland, who has been cast as Sophie Sheridan in the hit musical, Mamma Mia onboard the Allure of the Seas.



## Forthcoming Events

### The Addams Family – HGS School Production – 6 to 8 February

Tickets are now available for this year's school production, 'The Addams Family'. Students are rehearsing for the show which will take place on Tuesday 6, Wednesday 7 and Thursday 8 February. Book your tickets [here](#).



### Burns Night Supper – Saturday 24 February 2024



Come and join in the fun at our annual event hosted by the PE faculty and supported by the PTA. Monies raised will help fund the planned improvements to the sports facilities at HGS.

Tickets are priced at £45 which includes: welcome drink, three course meal, piper and address to the haggis, ceilidh band and Scottish dancing. Book your tickets [here](#)

## **Alumni Spotlight Series**

Can you help?

If you would be interested in joining our Spotlight Interview Series we would love to hear what you have been up to since leaving HGS. We are looking for alumni from all age groups and backgrounds, so please do contact us if you think you can help. The interviews are an important resource for our careers team, they help inspire students with post-16 and 18 pathway decisions.

Please email [hgsalumni@hgs.rklt.co.uk](mailto:hgsalumni@hgs.rklt.co.uk) to find out more.

## **Donate**

Past students and parents have often asked if they can donate to the school as a way of giving something back. Whilst one of the aims of the alumni network is to facilitate the giving of inspiration and advice to our current students, we appreciate that this is not always possible. For some, monetary giving is an alternative way of contributing to the school. To find out more, or if you would like to donate, please click [here](#).

## **Thank you**

Thank you, as always, for your continued support in making our alumni community something to be very proud to be a part of!