



HGS News

Term: Summer 2 2024

Welcome to HGS News

Welcome to our redesigned Parents/Carers Newsletter - 'HGS News'. It will be published via email during the last week of each half term and will replace the weekly parent bulletin. Students will continue to receive a weekly bulletin with key messages for the following week including Sports fixtures. Parents/Carers will still receive our regular emails including essential information and we will also send you a copy of the student bulletin. Weekly Sports fixtures, Word a day and the Spotlight series will be published on the website.

HGS News aims to provide Parents/Carers with an insight into the diverse activities and experiences the students have been undertaking each half term which will include a focus on a different Faculty each issue. It will also include key information such as diary dates and other operational messages. Together with our School Social media accounts, we hope you can join us in following the student journey of Life at HGS.



Dates for your Diary

Date	Activity	Year Groups
Friday 19 July	End of academic year - school closes at 2.30pm	All years
Thursday 15 August	A Level Results day	Collect results 9am Forum
Monday 19 August	Year 7, 8 and 9 Summer Netball	Years 7 to 9
Tuesday 20 August	Year 7, 8 and 9 Summer Netball	Years 7 to 9
Thursday 22 August	GCSE Results day	Collect results 9am Forum
Tuesday 3 September	Start of Academic year - 2024/2025	Years 7 to 12
Wednesday 4 September	Start of Academic year - 2024/2025	Year 13
Thursday 5 September	School Photographs	Year 7, 10 and 12



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In May, we wished our Year 11 and Year 13 all the very best in their final examinations. Year 11 were in Year 7 when the school closed due to the pandemic. We had a real focus this year on making sure they were ready for exams with many additional revision sessions before and during the exams, including Saturday School.

We would like to acknowledge the excellent conduct of all of our students who have taken external exams this year and hope their hard work is rewarded on the results days in the summer. Year 13 will receive their results in school on Thursday 15 August and Year 11 on Thursday 22 August. We wish students well and thank them for all their efforts.

End of Academic Year Message – Summer 2024

As we approach the new academic year, we want to take this opportunity to not only wish you a pleasant summer break but also update you about some developments next year. We have much to celebrate over the 2023-2024 academic year.



This year, 80 trips took place involving nearly 10,000 student experiences. Students have travelled to many locations including Spain, Germany, France, Naples, Paris, London, Edinburgh, Cumbria, York, Wimbledon, multiple University trips, weekend trips to Conover Hall for netball and girls and boys football tournaments, both girls and boys rugby teams competed in the Rosslyn Park competition and the Year 8 cricket team completed a cricket tour in and around Liverpool. The annual End of Year trips to Flamingo Land and Bradford took place in July, as well as Geography and Biology students completing their fieldwork studies travelling to the Yorkshire coast, Malham, Otley and Leeds. 190 students across Year 10 and 12 have also completed the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze or Gold award expeditions.

There were 70 regular clubs and we played 400 sporting fixtures. In performing arts, over 900 students took part in a school play, concert, gig, theatre visit or workshop.

A total of 106,399 positives were given since January when we returned to Class Charts. There were 32 house events including English competitions, House Sports events, Sports Days, food bank collections and walk to school competitions.

School Priorities for next year

Next year we will continue our focus on returning attendance to pre-pandemic levels across the school. Whilst this is a national issue for all schools, we also face a challenge at HGS. This year we have introduced new initiatives, including more trips, clubs and attendance challenges. Our own data on the link between attendance and outcomes reminds us that the very best intervention strategy we have for children to do well in school is students, families and school, working together to keep attendance high.

In September we will deliver assemblies on our value of respect and ask students to commit to a respect pledge – to ourselves, others and our environment. We are keen to maintain the high expectations we have of behaviour and encourage students to show kindness each day in school. Further to this, we were very impressed with the work ethic in Year 11 and Year 13 this year and want to encourage this in all years through a focus on work ethic and student productivity.

This year we have been carrying out curriculum reviews in each subject area. This has involved a peer review process, working with headteachers, senior leaders and trained inspectors, in our Trust and wider, to refine our curriculum. This has been a rewarding process and helps us to develop even further as a school. One area of focus in our teaching next year, will be on the rigorous checking of understanding and teachers really inspiring and deepening student knowledge.



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Flexible Working Ambassador

In addition to our regional work in the Maths and Computing Hub, the school has been working regionally and nationally this year on a Department of Education initiative helping schools and Trusts to develop flexible working practices. The initiative involves the school acting as an ambassador and working with partner schools to improve flexible working. With the very real challenges of recruitment and retention in teaching, we are trying to innovate and pioneer new strategies, so we create the very best working environment for our staff.

<https://www.harrogategrammar.co.uk/fwams/>

Summer Work

Due to the sustained funding pressures in schools, we have a limited number of projects taking place over the summer. We have small projects taking place such as the redecoration and reconfiguration of some of the Art rooms and installing wall graphics in maths. Sadly, we had to postpone our work on new science labs in the Sixth Form. Luckily, however, our Wolfson Funding has been extended and we plan to do this work in the next academic year.

Next year we hope to refurbish our changing rooms because this is an area of school in need of development. We have been raising funds for this for a number of years and given the funding pressures on schools, we would welcome any ideas that you have around fundraising, knowledge about grants, benefactors, or alumni donations to help support this project. Please email the school.

Catering Costs

Unfortunately, the pressure of food costs and catering mean that we need to increase our prices in September from the current £3.50 to £3.60. In addition, our iPad repair charge has increased from £50 to £75.

Red Kite Learning Trust

Please [click on this link](#) to look back at all the learning opportunities and activities that have taken place over this academic year.

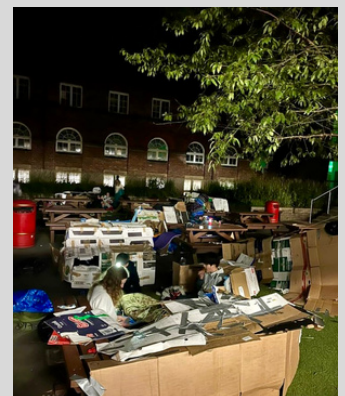


PTA

We would like to thank the PTA for their outstanding contribution to the school over the last academic year. This year the PTA has made a significant contribution to our new minibus raising a massive £30,000 this year. Their most recent second-hand uniform sale raised £2,500. We are very grateful for their continued support. If you would like to support any aspect of the PTA in the future, please contact the Chair, [Rhona Johnston](#).

Charity

We would like to thank the charities committee for their incredible fund-raising efforts on behalf of Zarach, a charity trying to lift children out of bed poverty. This year, students have raised over £14,000. Thank you for your donations and support. If you have not yet had chance to donate for non-uniform day today, donations can still be made via Arbor.





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Long Service

This year we say our goodbye to a number of staff who have delivered incredible service to HGS. We thank them for their commitment, recognise the difference that they have made to children and wish them all the very best for their future. The following staff leave after long service:

- Mr Mungovin - Site Manager: 26 years
- Mr Barker - Deputy Site Manager: 16 years
- Mrs Hagen - Teacher of Maths: 10 years
- Dr Robson - Assistant Headteacher/Science Teacher: 10 years

Summer Holidays

We have put together a useful [Summer Reading list](#), to encourage reading across the school.

It has been a busy year at HGS, and we hope you have managed to keep up to date with all that has been going on through our weekly parent bulletin, via our social media sites and our website. In September, we will issue a similar half termly newsletter with all the information for the half term ahead along with a link to a much shorter student bulletin. We are trying to rationalise, simplify and reduce repeated communication with you. Please be reassured, we will still send you a copy of the student bulletin.

In the course of the academic year, we see the commitment and efforts of young people to achieve their own excellence. We would like to thank all our students for their efforts and you for your continued support. We really look forward to welcoming students back in September and wish you a very safe and happy holiday.

Mr Renton, Headteacher

Sixth Form End of Academic Year Message – Summer 2024

We would like to thank our students for their positivity, maturity and focus during the academic year. They continue to be a credit to the school, and we are excited about what they can go on to achieve next year.



This year the Sixth Form has celebrated significant success. This is reflected in collective achievements including 82% of last year's university applicants, accepting a place at their first-choice place and the largest number of work experience placements ever undertaken.

We have held many fundraising events within Sixth Form to raise money for breast cancer research, celebrating Pride and donating to The Proud Trust as well as supporting Year 12 student Liz Hatton, raising over £3,500 for her treatment plan and enabling her to fulfil her photography aspirations.





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Sixth Form Student Leadership Team

I would like to thank Zack, Tess, Theo, Alice, Sam, Amy, Adam and Hannah for their hard work and service to the school over the last year and wish them all the best with their futures.

I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome our new Student Leadership Team. The team, led by Molly and Eleanor who were appointed in January along with Lulu, Tilly, Grace, Ethan, Victoria and Liz and will represent the students at HGS with pride in September.



Year 12 Progression

We have been pleased with the work that our Year 12 students have done in developing their career ideas and planning for progression beyond the Sixth Form. Students embraced the opportunity to hear from a range of speakers, including 22 recent alumni, about universities, apprenticeships, gap years and careers. Students have all started the process of writing a personal statement for applications to university, apprenticeships or jobs, and they should take the opportunity to research courses over the summer using [Unifrog](#) and visit universities. When students return in September, they will be completing their applications to submit within the autumn term.



Year 13 Progression

Our students are celebrating success with offers from a wide range of universities, as well as apprenticeships and courses in art, music, drama and performing arts. 289 students applied to university which is 88% of the year group. Currently 53% of the applicants have accepted offers from Russell Group Universities to study a range of courses from History to Real Estate Management. It is fantastic to see the range of apprenticeships and degree apprenticeships undertaken by our Year 13 leavers increasing. Students are holding offers with companies across retail, marketing and business sectors. We would like to recognise the success of all our students on whatever their chosen pathway and wish them all the very best for their future. We are incredibly proud of our students and their achievements.

It is important that our students have a well-earned break over the summer to re-charge in anticipation of returning to school in September. There are many opportunities for students to continue their personal and academic development over this period which can be found on our website. These include the MOOC's, bridging materials and information regarding open days and progression.

We wish you a restful and enjoyable summer break.
Mr Twitchin, Director of Sixth Form



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HGS Masterchef final

We had some outstanding entries from our KS3 Masterchef 2024 finalists. Well done to everyone who took part and Congratulations to the following students:

Overall winner - James Bell - Terra

Year 9 winner - Fliss Leather - Ignis

Year 8 winner - Barney Crossland - Ventus

Year 7 winner - Emily Jackson - Ignis



Open Events

Prospective Year 6 students and their parents are warmly invited to visit our school. For parents/carers only we have two morning sessions on Wednesday 18 September at 9.20am - 10.30am and 11.20am - 12.30pm.

On Saturday 5 October we are holding an open morning for students to attend with their families. There are two sessions at 9am - 11am or 11.30am - 1.30pm. To book your place visit www.ticketsource.co.uk/harrogate-grammar-school

HARROGATE GRAMMAR SCHOOL
EXCELLENCE FOR ALL

OPEN EVENTS

For Year 6 Students and Parents considering their Secondary school options for 2025

Open Morning (Parents/Carers only)
To see our school in action
WEDNESDAY 18 SEPTEMBER

Open Morning (Families)
SATURDAY 5 OCTOBER

To book your place and for timings visit:
www.ticketsource.co.uk/harrogate-grammar-school

HGS Careers Fair - Can you help?

We are delighted to announce that we are holding our annual Careers Fair here at school in the Sixth Form Centre on Thursday 21st November 2024 from 7pm - 8.30pm.

The aim of the event is to provide a fantastic opportunity for our students to learn more about a variety of careers, professions and pathways which they could consider for the future. The evening will run from 7pm to 8:30pm for students and parents/carers from Year 7 to Year 13 to attend. The event has been well-supported by local and national employers/businesses as well as a wide range of Further and Higher Education providers in the past. We would welcome any parents/carers who would be willing to come and support the Careers Fair either as an individual, talking about your profession or by representing a business or company on a stand. We have had a number of parents/carers who have enjoyed supporting this event in the past and it has been greatly appreciated by our students. If you would like more information or are interested in supporting the Careers Fair then please contact Mrs Hinkins (Careers Leader) at school by email on hinkinsj@hgs.rklt.co.uk



Vacancies

RKLT Vacancies

Current vacancies within the Red Kite Learning Trust can be found [here](#).



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Start of Term Tuesday 3 September 2024

Students will be in form rooms for Periods 1 and 2, and lessons will commence from Period 3. Students will not need their PE kit on this day. Students will be able to access their timetable from Arbor from Tuesday 3 September. Please note that term commences for Year 13 students on Wednesday 4 September at 8.50am.

Returning to School after the Summer Break

Please see below a student message from Mr Mason and Miss Gee.

Mr Mason and Miss Gee would like to take this opportunity to say a big 'Well Done' to all our students for a fantastic year. There have been so many memorable moments this year, from the various trips and residentials to the amazing atmosphere you all created on Sports Days. We hope that you have a lovely summer filled with lots of fun and relaxation, and we look forward to welcoming you back in September refreshed and raring to meet the new challenges your next year brings.

As you prepare to return to school in September, please remember the following:

- Uniform & Equipment - please check you have the correct uniform and that you have the correct equipment in your pencil case for the academic year.
- Reading Recommendations - please take a moment to look at the [Summer Reading](#) suggestions and dive into a good book over the holidays.
- Timetables - these will be available for you on Arbor from 3 September; please log on and check your new timetable.
- iPad - make sure that it is in your bag fully charged ready for learning.
- School Tie - Your tie is the same one you have worn in the previous year.

Well-Being, Mental Health and e-Safety

As we head into the summer holidays, we want to be certain that everyone has access to help if needed. Also if you know of another young person who needs to access help you can pass the details to them:

For child/young person mental health / emotional wellbeing

- Compass Buzz: Mon-Thur 9am-5pm, Fri 9am-4.30pm text 07520631168
- Teen Connect Help line 11-18 years: 0808 8001212 (6pm-2am) / 07715 661559 (text) / lslcs.org.uk/services/connect-helpline/teen-connect
- Kooth: Ages 11 to 25 years: www.kooth.com
- Young Minds: youngminds.org.uk
- Calm Harm App: For self-harm: calmharm.co.uk
- Clear Fear App: For anxiety: clearfear.co.uk
- SHOUT: 24/7 free confidential text service. To start a conversation text the word SHOUT to 85258
- The Go To Harrogate: thegoto.org.uk
- NSPCC: nspcc.org.uk
- Childline: 0800 1111 (Freephone) / childline.org.uk

For child/young person Crisis mental health support

- Harrogate CAMHS: 0300 013 4778 or crisis support on 0800 0516171

For emergency situations

- Police on 999 in an emergency or 101 for non-emergencies
- 112: For all emergency services



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Year 11 GCSE Results Day – Thursday 22 August

Your exam results will be available for collection from 9am in the Forum on Thursday 22 August.

Please enter school via the Sixth Form reception. If you applied to HGS Sixth Form and have met the conditions of your offer, you will be requested to confirm your place and your subject choices with a member of the Sixth Form team, who will be located in the corridor outside the Forum. If you have not met the conditions of the offer, you should make an appointment with a member of the Sixth Form Team.

Our independent Careers Advisor will also be available to support students with any progression queries. Meetings with the Sixth Form team will take place on Friday 23 August. If you are unable to collect your results in person, they will be emailed to your student email address by noon that day. If you would like someone else to collect them on your behalf, please download and complete [this form](#) and hand it to the person collecting your results. They will need this completed form that is your written authorisation to collect your results on your behalf.

Year 13 A Level Results Day – Thursday 15 August

Many teachers will be present on Results Day to celebrate the success of students. In addition, a team of staff will be there to support students. This team will continue to support students over the following week until they have secured a progression route that meets their needs.

- Results can be collected from school at 9am in The Forum.
- Students are advised to check offers on UCAS TRACK as soon as possible; TRACK should be live from early Thursday morning.
- For Students in Clearing, staff will be available at school from 8am on Results Day to offer advice and to help guide students through the clearing process. Eligible students, identified by checking on UCAS TRACK, should come to room S09 so that they are well prepared and ready to access clearing vacancies as soon as they become available. Students are reminded to bring their log-in details so that we can fully support them. Full details of clearing places will be available on the UCAS website from Results Day on Thursday 15 August.





Life @ HGS

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School Sports Day

Our annual Sports Day was split over two days in July. Year 7/8 came together first, followed by the Year 9/10. They competed in individual athletics and group activities from Tug of War to volleyball and rounders.



End of year trips

Here are some snap shots from Flamingo Land and Ice Rink and Cinema in Bradford.





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France Trip - July 2024

This July, just over 120 of our year 7 students enjoyed a short visit to the Opal Coast, Northern France. After an early departure from school, they made it to Le Touquet in time for some early evening games on the beautiful sandy beach and sand dunes.

The itinerary the next day, included a snail farm, une biscuiterie, some time in the small town of Montreuil-sur-Mer and a walk around Le Touquet. At the snail farm, the snail farmer showed the students around his farm and taught them all about snails before they got to sample some homemade garlic snails. At the biscuiterie, they learned how biscuits are made and also got to try something a bit sweeter than snails. After an interesting and busy day, they ate in a local restaurant before once again enjoying the beach.

Before heading back to Calais for the journey home, students were entertained at a French bakery, where they learned all about baguettes and croissants and had a go at rolling their own croissants. Thankfully, they were provided with some the baker had made earlier. A short but action-packed fun few days in France indeed.



German Trip - June 2024

We took 56 students (a mixture of year 8 and 9) to the Rhineland in Germany for 4 nights (25-29 June). Students thoroughly enjoyed the huge selection of buffet style food and then watching the football on the overnight ferry from Hull to Rotherdam. We arrived in Cologne in the early afternoon to a scorching 28 degrees. We experienced a relaxing but informative cruise along the river, followed by shopping time in Cologne and a look around the cathedral as well as plenty of photos in front of the striking piece of architecture.

The next day, we woke up early to go to Phantasialand theme park where all the students had a fantastic day and coped admirably in the 30-degree heat.

On the final day, we visited Cochem for shopping, lunch and a tour of the stunning fairy tale like castle on the hill. Students were able to practise their German skills ordering drinks and ice-creams!

The students behaved impeccably, and this was commented on by several members of the public on the ferry.





Life @ HGS

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This year's Duke of Edinburgh Award trips review

We have just returned home after a successful 4-day Gold expedition in the Yorkshire Dales and Cumbria. 28 fantastic year 12 students took part in the experience, walking from Buxton to Kirkby Stephen and camping in Hawes, Dent and the Howgill Fells. Over the 4 days, students demonstrated grit and determination to get to the end - a huge achievement - well done to all who took part!

At the start of the month, we completed the Bronze expedition season; 165 year 10 students took part and were split into 3 expedition cohorts. Each took part in a practice expedition and assessed expedition. These expeditions took place fairly locally in the Dales. The students did incredibly well over the two weekends to complete the expedition section. Now with the expedition section complete, students must turn their attention to the other 3 sections- Physical, Volunteering and Skill (plus Residential at Gold level). Each of these sections encourage organisation and time management to set up, plus commitment to see through. I encourage any student needing support to get in touch and ask for help.



A huge thanks to all the staff that have helped in the delivery of the award this year (Laura Chesworth, Kate Perfect, David Normanshire and Rachel Boyd). Well done to all involved - you have been a credit to HGS!

Jake Kempton

Teacher of Geography/Co-ordinator of Outdoor Education





HGS Sport

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End of Year Sports Round Up

Once again, this year we have seen a huge number of students across all year groups attending a wide range of sporting activities week after week. We have played a record 400 individual sporting fixtures played across 8 different sports. This has provided a great opportunity for our students to showcase their sporting talents in a competitive environment.

There have been netball, football and cricket tours as well as a fantastic trip to Wimbledon. I would like to thank our HGS staff for their time and support in facilitating the many sporting events that we have had this year.

We are very proud of all the students that have represented the school and in their own endeavours. There have been many highlights.

We look forward to the new school year.

Mr T Ryder, Director of Sport

Here is a small snap shot of some of the team successes over the last year:



U13 Girls football Definitely an exciting team to watch for the future.

- County Cup Semi Finalists
- Last 16 of the National Cup
- Third round of the Sisters In Sport Cup



U18 Boys Rugby Team won the plate in the final of the Mount St Mary's School 7s



U14s Boys Cricket congratulations to the team who went through to the North Yorkshire Cup

HGS Netball Summer Camps

Booking is open for our annual Netball Summer camp. Open to students in years 7, 8 and 9. If you would like your child to attend please book via the Arbor Parent app and click on Trips.

Fixtures

School fixtures will resume w/c 9th September. Please check the website for further details and look out for the timetable to be sent out start of term.