



HARROGATE
GRAMMAR SCHOOL
EXCELLENCE FOR ALL

5 September 2024

Dear Parents/Carers of all students in Years 8 and 9

Years 8 and 9 Welcome and Key Information

It is a pleasure to welcome students back to school after the summer break. The start of the new academic year presents an opportunity for students to set themselves personal goals and to establish effective habits. This is an important year for all students, especially Year 9 who make their GCSE choices in the Spring Term.

Key Dates

Attached to this letter are key dates for this academic year. You can also access the school calendar on our website by clicking [here](#).

Routines and Expectations

We have high expectations of all of our students. Full details of the routines and expectations can be found in the [parent handbook](#). We expect high levels of attendance throughout the year and will contact you if there is an unexplained absence. We monitor attendance trends closely and will put supportive measures in place if necessary. Routine medical and dental appointments should be made outside school time where possible. The NHS have given [guidance](#) if you are unsure whether to send your child to school, please [click here](#) for instructions how to report any absence.

Students must wear their uniform correctly and with pride; shirts need to be tucked in and shoes, not trainers or trainer styles, need to be worn. We do not allow makeup, and this includes fake eyelashes, false or painted nails or body/facial piercings. If students have these for an event or special occasion, please ensure that they have been removed in readiness for school. Your support in this is very much appreciated.

We continue to focus on [Learner Habits](#), which are habits that learners need to exhibit to ensure they build a strong work ethic and are able to achieve the very best outcomes for themselves. Students will be awarded positive behaviour points on [Class Charts](#) if these habits are displayed and there are rewards for reaching milestones in the number of positive points. If students are not meeting expectations in the classroom or the wider school, students will receive a negative behaviour point. We will be monitoring these closely and making contact with you.

As part of our HGS values, we have high expectations of students being respectful to themselves, to others and to the environment. All students have signed a [Respect Pledge](#) at the start of the year, agreeing to follow respectful behaviours. There will also be assemblies and Big Picture lessons supporting students on how best to achieve this throughout the year.

Work Ethic and Home Learning

All home learning tasks assigned to students will be available via Arbor on their iPads. Parents will also have access to this information via the [Parent Arbor app](#).

Additional information regarding home learning can be found on page 12 of the [parent handbook](#).

Frequency and Duration of Home Learning

Year 8 and 9	Frequency	Duration – Year 8	Duration – Year 9
English	2 per week	25 minutes per task	30 minutes per task
Maths	2 per week		
Science	3 per fortnight (between 2 teachers)		
MFL	1 per week (per subject)		
Geography and History	1 per week (per subject)		
RS	1 per fortnight		
Art and Design	1 per fortnight (per subject)		
Music and Drama	1 per fortnight		

Throughout the year we will talk with students about the importance of work ethic. We are encouraging students to set themselves clear goals and to take pride in their work. We want students at HGS to work hard, and to push themselves out of their comfort zone. Home learning is a perfect opportunity for this to ensure they are being the best version of themselves to get the best outcomes for their future.

Reading

Reading is of great importance, and we ask that you support us by helping and encouraging your child to read for 30 minutes each day at home. All the research shows that this will not only support your child's education and development, but also their mental health and well-being.

Support and Help through KS3

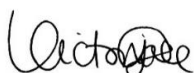
We welcome feedback and want to form an effective partnership between home and school. It is crucial, therefore, that we have open and honest communication. Each year group has an allocated year manager who should always be your first point of contact.

Year 8 is Mr Manning ManningS@hgs.rklt.co.uk Tel: 01423 531127 ext: 7046

Year 9 is Mrs Ellenthorpe EllenthorpeM@hgs.rklt.co.uk Tel: 01423 531127 ext: 7051

We look forward to working with you and your child in a way that best serves their interests and effectively shapes their future. Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you require any information throughout the year via 01423 531127 or mail@hgs.rklt.co.uk

Yours sincerely



Miss V Gee

Assistant Headteacher, Director of Lower School

Key Dates for the 2024/25 Academic Year

Date	Event
Tuesday 24 September	First PTA meeting 6.30pm
Wednesday 9 October	Year 9 SEND Consultation evening in school
Wednesday 23 October	Year 8 SEND Consultation evening in school
w/c 2 December	Year 9 Outward Bound Trips
w/c 16 December	Year 9 Options information to students and parents
Thursday 16 January	Year 9 Options information evening 6pm
Tuesday 21 January	Year 9 Consultation evening 4-7pm virtual event
Tuesday 18 March	Year 8 Consultation Evening 4-8pm virtual event
Wednesday 14 May	Year 9 SEND Consultation evening virtual event
w/c 2 and 9 June	Years 7 to 9 Summer CATs
Wednesday 11 June	Year 8 SEND Consultation evening virtual event
Thursday 3 July	Year 7/8 Sports Day and Year 9 End of Year trip
Tuesday 15 July	Year 9 Sports Day and Year 7/8 End of Year trip
School Term dates can be found here: Term Dates	