



# HGS News

Autumn term 1 2024

## Welcome to HGS News

This issue includes key information you need to know about for the next half term. It also provides insights about many of the events that have taken place in school over the first 8 weeks of the new school year. We introduce you to Miss Smith, our Deputy Head, as she discusses the topics we have been focusing on this term. This newsletter also contains the important termly curriculum overview, containing the topic areas your child will study.

## Dates for your Diary

Monday 4 November	First day of term	Year groups
Tuesday 5 November	Year 13 Parents evening online 4pm - 7pm	Year 13
Wednesday 6 November	Year 10 SEND Parents evening 2.45pm - 6pm	Year 10
Thursday 7 November	Remembrance evening 7pm - 8.30pm Click <a href="#">here</a> to book your place	All year groups and families
Friday 8 November	Big Picture careers morning	Year 11
Monday 11 November - Thursday 28 November	GCSE Mock exams	Year 11
Tuesday 12 November	Career Pathway talks 10am - 11am	Year 12
Thursday 14 November	War Horse theatre trip 5pm - 10pm	Year 10 - 13
Friday 15 November	Flu vaccinations 9am - 3.30pm	Whole school
Saturday 16 November	Mock Bar trials - All day in Leeds	Year 12 & 13
Thursday 21 November	Careers Fair in Sixth Form 7pm - 8.30pm Click <a href="#">here</a> to book your tickets	All year groups
Friday 22 November	Car free Friday	Students and staff
Tuesday 26 November	Year 12 Parents evening in school 4pm - 7pm	Year 12
Wednesday 27, Thursday 28 November	KS3 Production - James and the Giant Peach 6pm - 8pm Click <a href="#">here</a> to book your tickets	All year groups
Friday 29 November	Staff training day - School closed	All year groups
Various dates throughout November	Drop in sessions and Masterclasses are taking place to support the students	Year 11



## Message from Miss Smith Deputy Head

As we head into the second half term, I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself and some key projects I am leading on in school. One of the things we are really focusing on this year is our Respect Pledge.



When asked, both students and staff, said that they most valued kindness and respect and wanted this to be an area we all worked on together as a school. We have produced a pledge that all students have signed and carry with them. This forms part of conversations when staff are working with students to remind them to respect themselves, each other and the environment throughout the school day. This was built on in our recent Kindness Week and was really taken to heart by staff and students which was brilliant to see.

We are also focusing on work ethic and working hard. We want students to feel ready for each next step in school as they work towards their exams. We are therefore developing students ability to work independently on more extended pieces of writing across all subjects as well as ensuring that they make the important link between home learning, deeper subject knowledge and revision.

To support our focus on attendance, we want all students to feel a sense of belonging and a desire to come to school, as it is a kind and safe place where they can find support when needed. As well as missing the students when they are not in school, the link between very high levels of punctuality and attendance and gaining the best outcomes is demonstrated each year.

## School Open Day

It was such a beautiful morning to showcase our school to prospective families. Over 2000 people queued up to listen to talks, engage in lessons, sample food and have a tour of the school and grounds. Thank you to everyone who visited and a big thank you to all the staff and students who helped put on such a fantastic day. To watch highlights from the day watch our reel [here](#).





## Sixth Form Open Evening



Thank you to everyone who attended our open event this week. We welcomed over 500 families to view our facilities and speak to our staff and students. To see reel from evening click [here](#). The prospectus can be viewed [here](#) and further details on how to apply can be found [here](#).

If you missed this event the next open day is on Saturday 18 January at 2-4pm.

## Oxbridge Conference

We welcomed 78 students from 9 schools across the Red Kite Alliance to take part in group activities and experience a practice interview in preparation for their Oxbridge application. It was a great collaborative event and the students found it hugely beneficial. A big thank you to all the teachers who supported us in hosting this fantastic event.



## Termly Curriculum Overview

Please click on the links below to access the Termly Curriculum Overview. Simply click on the subject and you can see what topics will be covered in each term, how your child will be assessed and any additional activities you can do at home to support their learning.

[Key Stage 3 - Years 7, 8 and 9](#)

[Key Stage 4 - Years 10 and 11](#)

[Key Stage 5 - Year 12](#)

[Key Stage 5 - Year 13](#)



## New Staff Welcome Afternoon Tea

In September we welcomed 25 new members of staff to HGS. After a busy first half term they enjoyed afternoon tea together where they shared their experiences and spoke to our Senior Leadership team.



## PTA Update

The annual Quiz Night was a great success raising £2,500. 17 teams competed for the PTA trophy. The Daft Punks won and will have their name engraved on the trophy.

The Autumn Used Uniform sale was very busy and raised £1,200. We had huge amounts of donated uniform, thank you to all the families who donated. Our sales are becoming more popular and such a great way to bag a bargain.

The PTA Marvellous Minibus Campaign has been chosen as a Co-op local community cause. This means we will receive £500 towards the campaign and another instalment based on how many co-op members choose us as their local cause. Please support us!



## Kindness Week



The first week of October brought us Kindness Week. We encouraged all members of the HGS community to 'pay forward' their kindness by trying to do at least three kind acts a day. This linked to the respect pledge signed by students at the start of the year, highlighting ways students can be kind to themselves, each other and the environment.

Students attended assemblies and completed activities in tutor time and in lessons, focusing on paying forward kindness.

Over the week, students wrote kindness postcards to staff, designed kindness posters and gained over 1,000 respectful behaviour positives on Class Charts.



## Career Focus @ HGS



**CAREERS FAIR 2024**

**JOBS, CAREERS, FURTHER EDUCATION,  
HIGHER EDUCATION & APPRENTICESHIPS**



➤ **THURSDAY 21 NOVEMBER 2024** ➤ **7.00PM - 8.30 PM**

➤ **OPEN TO STUDENTS & FAMILIES** ➤ **IN THE SIXTH FORM**  
**IN YEAR 7-13**

[WWW.HARROGATEGRAMMAR.CO.UK](http://WWW.HARROGATEGRAMMAR.CO.UK)



We are delighted to announce that we are holding our annual Careers Fair at HGS on Thursday 21 November from 7pm to 8.30pm. The event is a fantastic opportunity for our students to learn more about a variety of careers, professions and pathways. All students in Years 7 to 13 and their parents and carers are warmly invited to attend. Click [here](#) to book your tickets.

We are keen for all professions to be represented at the event and we are looking for companies/individuals to represent these professions: Business administration and Management, Financial services, IT and Computer Science, Marketing and Advertising Environmental and Agricultural, Science and Mathematics Building and Construction, Art, Craft and Design, Hair and Beauty Education, Healthcare, Hospitality and Tourism, Retail and Customer Service, Transport and Logistics, Manufacturing, Law.

Do you work in any of these professions? Would you be willing to come along to chat to students about your role? We would love to hear from you. For more information please contact Mrs Hinkins on [hinkinsj@hgs.rklt.co.uk](mailto:hinkinsj@hgs.rklt.co.uk)

## Have you thought about a career in English?

Each month we will focus on a different faculty and how these subjects link to education pathways and careers in different industries. This month, we focus on English.

Here are some useful links:

[Careerpilot: Subject – English](#)

[What can I do with an English degree? | Prospects.ac.uk](#)

[Highest paying jobs with an English degree in the UK | Indeed.com UK](#)



## Black History Month



October is Black History Month. This year's theme is 'Reclaiming Narratives'. In the past, the history of Black communities has often been misrepresented, oversimplified or simply ignored so this month is about encouraging Black people to take ownership of their own stories. In their History lessons this term, KS3 students have been finding out about the experiences of African women in Roman York and the life of Tituba, an African woman accused of witchcraft in 17th century Salem, Massachusetts.



# Life @ HGS



## Charity Halloween Disco

We held a Halloween disco for Year 7 and 8 students, raising money for our school charity, Mind Harrogate. Our design faculty dressed the Forum with ghoulish decorations, students came in fancy dress and took part in spooky themed activities. Huge thanks to everyone who came and supported this event, we raised £1,000 for Mind Harrogate.



## Extra Curricular Clubs

Please click on [this link](#) to see the clubs we have available for students to join either at lunchtime or after school. Booking is via Arbor.

## Hopewalk

On Sunday 20 October we took part in our annual Hopewalk in memory of HGS student, Dom Sowa. Staff, students and their families joined together to walk through Valley Gardens and the Pine Woods. Thank you to everyone who supported the walk despite the rain! Hopewalks are in support of Papyrus. This is a national charity dedicated to the prevention of young suicide.

HOPE LINE - open 24/7 - 0800 068 41 41



## World Mental Health Day

To support the day our assemblies focused on mental health with resources shared by Mind Harrogate, our school charity for the year. We discussed ways in which students could practice the Five ways of Well Being; Connect, Be Active, Take Notice, Keep Learning and Give. In partnership with Mind Harrogate, Chloe McEwen spoke to Year 11 and 12 students about her mental health journey.



Five ways to wellbeing



# Faculty Focus

## English At HGS

In each issue of HGS News, we will focus on a different faculty to help provide you with an insight to what the students have been studying throughout the term.



## National Poetry Day

To celebrate National Poetry Day, Poet Maria Ferguson visited school to talk in assembly to Year 7 and Year 8 students and debut her poem 'What's in my bag'. She also ran a writing workshop for a small group of students who collaborated on making their own fantastic poem.



Year 7 students have read 'Boy 87' as their transition text, completed some creative writing and they are now reading about creation myths and are about to start reading The Odyssey.



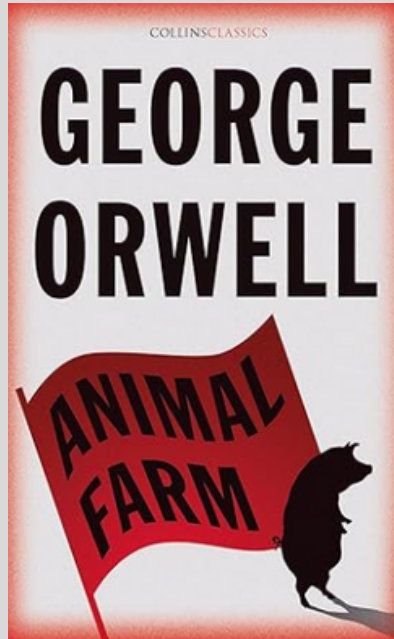
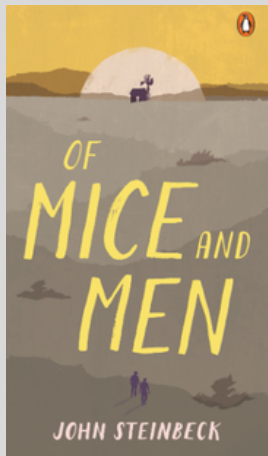
Year 8 have considered what it is to be homeless and have followed Link, a young adult character, who finds himself on the streets of London in 'Stone Cold'.



# Faculty Focus

Students in Year 9 have been enjoying reading 'Of Mice and Men', where they have engaged with characters who face discrimination and marginalisation due to their race, gender and social status.

In Year 10, students have started studying Shakespeare's 'Macbeth'.



Year 11 are busy preparing for their first round of mock exams revising 'Animal Farm', Language paper 1, Power and Conflict poetry and unseen poetry.



Year 13 A-level Literature students have been reading and watching a Globe performance of Shakespeare's 'Othello' which has enabled students to debate the historical and contemporary representation of love, conflict and race in the time period.





# HGS Sport



U13 Girls football team

## Sports Focus

It has been a very busy and exciting start to the term for HGS sports, with a wide variety of school fixtures across numerous sports. Both boys and girls rugby, boys and girls football, girls hockey, tennis, and cross-country have all featured prominently. A standout moment was the Saturday rugby fixtures at Harrogate Rugby Club, where all year groups participated, with many of the year 7 boys playing in their first-ever rugby match. Special recognition goes to the U14 girls hockey team, who reached the regional finals for the first time in the school's history. Additionally, both the U13 girls' and U13 boys' football teams secured impressive first-round wins in the National Schools Football Cup. It has been an action-packed half term with fantastic achievements across the board.

U13 Boys football team



## U14 Girls Hockey team



## U15 Boys Rugby team



## U16 Girls Rugby team





# Sustainability @ HGS

With the growing concern over climate change and environmental degradation, it is more important than ever to teach our students about sustainability and inspire them to take action towards a greener future. Each faculty is tasked with implementing solutions of how their department can be greener.

## Performing Arts

Performing Arts have explored the Blues. A key theme within this is 'found instruments', musicians using materials and equipment available and often recycled to make music. Students have also studied oral tradition, where music and song is learnt and traditions continued by mouth rather than recorded on paper. In Drama, students have studied devising in Year 8 and used images relating to climate change to create their work. Through this they have also looked at palm oil production and the impact this is having on our world.

## Geography

In Geography, students have been learning about Globalisation and the negative impacts this has on the environment, and whether this outweighs the benefits of a more connected world. GCSE and A level students have also been considering the impacts of climate change on the intensity, magnitude and distribution of tropical storms.

## MFL

Students in MFL have been learning how to talk about wider environmental problems facing the planet that worry us and what we can do to help the environment.

## Science

Science students have been exploring ecology and managing biodiversity and having a greater awareness of sustainable choices impacting the environment and global warming. They have also started completing their work on life cycle assessment, and the three R's (reduce, reuse, recycle). They will use this to evaluate life cycle assessments of products made from different materials, making final judgements on which products have the lower environmental impact.

## Design

In design, they have used 100% recycled materials throughout art club, to create the stage sets for this year's production of James and the Giant Peach.

## Business and Economics

In their curriculum they have looked into renewable and non-renewable factors of production. Finally, they have been looking at how firms have responded to environmental concerns such as through using paper packaging or changing suppliers to be more local.



## Maths and Computing

The Maths and Computing faculty have been visited by Manjinder Jagdev from York St John University, focussing on helping teachers to address the point of sustainability. From this, the faculty are making plans to interpret Venn diagrams using real life data on sustainability based on staff and students.