



HARROGATE GRAMMAR SCHOOL
EXCELLENCE FOR ALL



HGS Alumni News

Autumn term 2024

Harrogate Grammar Connect Alumni Newsletter Autumn 2024-2025

The 2024-25 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.

All alumni newsletters are now published on our website on a termly basis ([Harrogate Grammar School - Red Kite Learning Trust - Alumni](#)), 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 or message us via our online platforms (links to platforms at the end of this newsletter).

Remembering Liz

Liz Hatton, one of our Sixth Form students sadly passed away recently. Click [here](#) to read some words about Liz on our website. Her family are working to raise as much money as they can to fund vital research and support for others with Desmoplastic Round Cell Tumour. Donations can be made via the Just Giving page and they also welcome ideas for fund raising activities and offers of help.

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/vicky-robayna>



PTA Update

The Christmas Raffle was a tremendous success this year, generating £1,550 for the PTA. A huge thank you to everyone who bought tickets!

HGS PTA has been selected to participate in the upcoming round of the Co-op Local Community Fund. Co-op Members will have the opportunity to choose HGS PTA as their cause, and the more members who select us, the more funds we can receive. Simply click on "Community" in the app or visit their website at <https://www.coop.co.uk/membership>.

We also want to express our gratitude for your support of the Minibus Fundraiser. Through our crowdfunding efforts, quizzes, used uniform sales and raffles, we successfully raised £20,000 last year for the minibus. Upcoming events include the annual Burns Supper on Saturday 1 March, details can be found in the Forthcoming Events section of this newsletter.



HGS Sport



U16s Girls Netball team

U14 Boys Rugby team



U14s Girls Netball team



Year 7 & 8 Rugby team



Sports Focus

It has been another action-packed term of sport at HGS, with over 600 students from Years 7-11 participating in sports clubs each week. Over the last 15 weeks, we have played 166 fixtures across six different sports. Rugby, Football, Netball, Hockey, Tennis and Cross-Country.

Highlights include the U16 girls' netball team, who triumphed in the regional netball tournament and who have now qualified for the Yorkshire finals. This will take place at the English Institute of Sport at the start of the Spring Term.

Additionally, the U14 boys' rugby team has excelled, advancing to Round 4 of the National Cup after facing several strong opposition schools.

Well done to all students involved, and good luck to those competing in the next stages.



School news and activities

Mock Bar Trial Competition - Regional Winners

Fourteen sixth form students from HGS competed in the regional heat of the Bar Mock Trial Competition at Leeds Law School, facing 16 other schools. Their victory secured a place in the National Final in March, traditionally held at the Royal Courts of Justice in London.

The team, consisting of four barristers, four witnesses, a court clerk, an usher, and four jurors, began the proposal in September. They worked on two cases: one involving a security guard charged with assault, and another Olympic-themed case with a cyclist accused of possessing a controlled substance. The competition included three rounds, with Harrogate Grammar School earning the most points. The students demonstrated exceptional skills in cross-examination and witness testimony, and their court clerk and usher were praised for their organisation. The day concluded with a Q&A with judges, inspiring the students to pursue careers in law.



Oxbridge & Medical Conference

HGS hosted its tenth Medical Conference on Wednesday 4 December, involving students and staff from 10 schools across the Red Kite Alliance. Students took part in a practice interview based on the multiple mini interview technique used in many medical schools. The aim of the conference was to better prepare students for formal interviews.



Careers Fair



Our annual Careers Fair hosted over 60 companies, attracting students from Years 7 to 13 along with their families. A big thank you to all the exhibitors who participated, our student volunteers, and especially to Mrs Hinkins and Mrs Mitchell for organising such an incredible event for our school. The Careers Fair offers a wonderful chance for our students to explore a range of careers, professions, and pathways. If you run your own business or work for a company who are interested in exhibiting at the next fair, please email to HinkinsJ@hgs.rklt.co.uk.



School news and activities



Senior Citizens Festive Coffee morning

In December we held our annual Festive Coffee Morning for local senior citizens. There were fantastic performances from our Music and Performing Arts students, Christmassy bakes from our catering team and our famous raffle. We raised over £300 for our chosen school charity Mind. Thank you to all the student helpers and staff for organising such a meaningful occasion.

Celebration Evening



In December we held our annual Celebration of Achievement evening. Prizes were presented by our special guest HGS Alumnus, Harvey McCabe and Headteacher, Mr Renton, recognising the wide-ranging skills and talents of students, as well as their more personal journeys.

End of Year Message

Please click [here](#) to read the end of year message from Mr Renton - Headteacher and 'HGS News', our parent newsletter for the Autumn term.

Christmas Concert



In December, we hosted our annual Christmas Concert and it was truly amazing to witness so many students from all year groups uniting to showcase their talents. The performances from our junior and senior orchestras, along with the A level band, Year 12 BTEC band and soloists, were a delight. The audience joyfully sang along to renditions of 'Rocking around the Christmas tree' and 'All I want for Christmas is you.' A huge thank you to all the staff who contributed to making the concert a resounding success.

Alex Stanhope a parent, kindly filmed the concert which you can watch [here](#).



Alumni news

Alumni Spotlight Interviews

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, helping inspire students with post-16 and 18 pathway decisions. Please email hgsalumni@hgs.rklt.co.uk to find out more. Our latest alumni spotlight interview from alumna Emma Vanson can be read by clicking on the link below:

[Alumni Spotlight Interviews](#)

Emma Vanson



Time at HGS: 1991-1997

Job Title: Data and Exams officer at Harrogate Grammar School

Litany – Music



HGS alumna [@litanymusic](#) is having her latest music debuted on BBC Radio 1. We wish her every success.

Gabe - Rugby

Well done HGS alumnus Gabe Horberry (currently studying at Loughborough University) who was selected for Hong Kong in the U19 Asia Rugby Championship in December.



Emily – Art & Textiles



It has been wonderful to get an update from Emily (class of 2023). Emily studied art and textiles at HGS and went on to complete a foundation diploma at Leeds Art University. She is now studying a BA(Hons) in embroidery at the Royal School of Needlework based at Hampton Court Palace.



Alumni News

50 year Reunion Event - Class of 1974

On Saturday 12 October, HGS was the venue for a fantastic alumni event for those who left the school in 1974. The night started with a drinks reception and speech from Headteacher Mr Renton. Alumni sat down for a meal before taking a tour of the school with lots of time for catching up and reminiscing, including a soundtrack of music up to 1974!

Interested in holding an event at HGS? Please contact ButterfieldLehgs.rklt.co.uk to find out more.





HGS Alumni Community

Forthcoming Events - Burns Night Supper - Sat 24 Feb



Come and join in the fun at our annual event hosted by the PE faculty and supported by the PTA. Funds raised will be used to refurbish the changing rooms.

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](#)

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 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](#).

Get involved

Join our alumni community by completing the form below and receive alumni communications, such as requests for volunteers to be involved in spotlight interviews and school events.

[Harrogate Grammar Connect Joining Form](#)

Click on the following social media links to join your Harrogate Grammar School community:



Thank you

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