



# HGS News

Spring term 1 2025

## Message from Mrs Moat, Associate Headteacher

Having joined the school in 2008 as Faculty Leader for MFL, my journey at HGS took a quite different turn in 2011, when I momentarily lost my senses and agreed to start learning how to create the school timetable. Not an obvious move for a linguist – but I do love a challenge! My role in the school is much wider than this now, but my 15<sup>th</sup> timetable is already underway. I am grateful to be incredibly well supported by Ms Wilson in this role and this year, Mr Hill, Faculty Leader for Maths is shadowing us.



The process begins in December, as Year 9 begin their options process, deciding which subjects they would like to continue with to GCSE. These choices are now all in and the blocking process has begun. 1132 individual subject choices, which need to be organised into 4 blocks, ensuring all students are able to study the subjects they have chosen. On Friday 7 February, the real fun begins, when the applications are in for the Sixth Form at HGS. Last year this was 1935 individual subject choices across 41 different courses. This is a much more complex process, and we sadly had 15 individual choices which clashed. Only 0.7% but still very frustrating for Team Timetable! Once all of this information is in, teachers are assigned to classes, and we begin to build the structure of the timetable. The scheduling then begins, and we battle with matching 6500 timetable slots to 115 teachers, 50 of whom have part-time arrangements, across 105 different teaching rooms or spaces, over 40 different subjects, to create an individual timetable for our 2100 students! An extremely complicated process, which is never going to be perfect or as neat and tidy as you would like, but one which creates the engine room of the school, enabling the amazing teaching and learning to take place in each of those classrooms, every lesson. A little bit nerve wracking on that first day back in September as everyone disappears off into classrooms, hopefully with a teacher and we wait to make sure there is no one left on the corridor, breathe a sigh of relief and go for a lie down in a dark room.....

### Termly Curriculum Overview

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

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

Please click on the links to access the Termly Curriculum Overview.

[Key Stage 5 - Year 12](#)

[Key Stage 5 - Year 13](#)

### Extra Curricular

Please click on [this link](#) to see the clubs we have available. To sign up visit the Arbor Parent App Clubs section.

### HGS Social Media

To keep up to date with Life at HGS please follow our School accounts.



Sixth Form Accounts





## Dates for your diary - January 2025

Monday 17 February 2025	Ski trip to Italy	Year 10 & 11
Monday 24 February 2025	School Reopens	All Year groups
Monday 24 February 2025	Year 11 Second Mocks for two weeks	Year 11
Tuesday 25 February 2025	Jekyll & Hyde: Revision on tour in York	Year 11
Tuesday 25 February 2025	Parents Evening in school	Year 13
Tuesday 4 March 2025	Parents Evening - Psychology, Sociology & Economics	Year 13
Wednesday 5 March 2025	University Trip to Hull	Year 12
Wednesday 5 March 2025	Student Finance/Advisory Evening	Year 13
Thursday 6 March 2025	World Book Day	All Year groups
Thursday 6 March 2025	Macbeth trip to Globe Theatre	Year 10
Monday 10 March 2025	Geography Fieldwork	Year 11
Tuesday 11 March 2025	Geography Fieldwork	Year 11
Tuesday 11 March 2025	SEND Parents Evening	Year 12
Wednesday 12 March 2025	Religious Studies conference, Manchester for A Level students	Year 12 & 13
Thursday 13 March 2025	A Level Psychology grade booster trip	Year 13
Thursday 13 March 2025	A Level English Literature Theatre trip	Year 12 & 13
Friday 14 March 2025	A Level Business and Economics grade booster trip	Year 13
Friday 14 March 2025	Td/IPV and Meningitis Immunisations	Year 9
Tuesday 18 March 2025	Parents Evening including SEND - Online	Year 8



## NHS Pharmacy First

This service enables children and adults to get quick access to healthcare advice as they can walk into a pharmacy and access the service (some pharmacies also offer the service remotely as a video consultation). The person will then be offered a consultation with a pharmacist in a private consultation room. This service takes away the potential delay of having to wait for a GP appointment and may help ensure children get well and back to school as quickly as possible. To read full details please click [here](#).



## Quality in Careers Standard Award

We are delighted to have again been awarded the prestigious Quality in Careers Standard Award (QICS) for our Careers Education Information and Guidance programme. As a school we have always been committed to providing a careers education programme of the highest standard to support, inform and inspire our students as they move through their secondary school years towards further study pathways and employment options.

The Quality in Careers Standard Award is a nationally recognised award and one of the highest accolades a school can receive for excellence in this area of school life. During the last year the school had to complete a number of reassessment stages and submit a portfolio of evidence to receive the full award for a further three years.

## Dr Aric Sigman Talk

This week we welcomed Dr Sigman to host a talk on how to manage and prevent dependency on smartphones and screen time (including gaming, social media and TV). His talk covered the overuse and misuse of phones and non-homework screen activities and how these are linked to physical, emotional and academic wellbeing, and what you can do as a parent to reduce these risks. Dr Sigman also presented to both Year 11 and Year 13 students which included advice on how to work more effectively over the exam period.

**HARROGATE GRAMMAR SCHOOL**  
EXCELLENCE FOR ALL

# DR ARIC SIGMAN

**Talk - Smartphones and Screen Time:  
Managing them and preventing dependency**

WED 12 FEB 2025 - 6PM - 7PM IN THE FORUM  
1 TICKET PER FAMILY - £4

The talk will focus on how to manage and prevent dependency on smartphones and screen time (including gaming, social media and TV). This talk will cover the overuse and misuse of phones and non-homework screen activities and how these are linked to physical, emotional and academic well-being and what you can do as a parent to reduce these risks.





## Year 11 revision sessions and Masterclasses

We have created a new page on the school website where all the information regarding Year 11 support can be found. This includes the second mock timetable which takes place after the half term break, and the GCSE summer exam timetable. There are drop in sessions, master classes, Saturday and Easter revision sessions available to students. Click [here](#).

## 'Mind your own Beeswax' Business

As part of Young Enterprise in school we are a student-led company trying to reduce the waste caused by plastic through cling film. Our alternative to this is beeswax wraps which are hand made by us. We are a team of 9 students and each of us look after a different department e.g. marketing, production, events and design. We would really appreciate support from the school community. So please help our business by pre-ordering one today.



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### MIND YOUR OWN BEESWAX

Contact us at [Mind.your.own.beeswax@gmail.com](mailto:Mind.your.own.beeswax@gmail.com)

**Our mission statement:**

At "Mind Your Own Beeswax", our aim is to create an innovative and accessible way to reduce your plastic waste. Humans currently produce over 350 million tons of plastic waste per year, projected to triple by 2060. We have to make a change, and that change is now. Our company produces a fun, eco-friendly alternative to cling film, tin foil, plastic bags and more damaging, disposable materials, through our reusable cotton beeswax wraps.

WRAP SIZE:	PRICES:
35cm x 35cm (Approx. 13.78 inches)	£2.50 2 wraps for £4.00

**PRE-ORDERS AVAILABLE NOW! \*\*\***

Send us an email at [Mind.your.own.beeswax@gmail.com](mailto:Mind.your.own.beeswax@gmail.com) with your name, email address and mobile number along with the following details:

- Size of wraps (S, M, L, see above info)
- Quantity of wraps
- Home address for deliveries

Note: If you are parent/ carer for a student at HGS, to cut delivery costs, we would encourage you to include your child's form in the email group for collecting deliveries from the Main Reception or the Sixth Form Reception.

\*\*\*Please be aware that ONLY pre-orders are available for the time being.



## PTA Update



### BURNS NIGHT RAFFLE TICKETS

KEEP THIS TICKET  
★ YOU MAY WIN A PRIZE ★  
No. 1438751 25p


ALTHOUGH THE EVENT HAS NOW SOLD OUT, YOU CAN STILL SUPPORT THE SCHOOL BY PURCHASING RAFFLE TICKETS.

RAFFLE TICKETS ARE £2 PER TICKET AND CAN BE PURCHASED VIA THE ARBOR PARENT PORTAL OR WEBLINK. THE DEADLINE TO PURCHASE A TICKET IS NOON ON THURSDAY 27 FEBRUARY.

PRIZES INCLUDE:

- RASUL SPA VOUCHER
- SUNDAY LUNCH AT AMBER'S RESTAURANT
- £150 VOUCHER FOR THE MAJESTIC HOTEL
- 18-HOLE GOLF AT OAKDALE GOLF CLUB
- £50 RUDDING PARK VOUCHER

FOR A FULL LIST OF PRIZES AND TO PURCHASE TICKETS PLEASE CLICK [HERE TO VISIT THE BURNS NIGHT WEBSITE](#)



THE RAFFLE WILL BE DRAWN DURING THE BURNS NIGHT DINNER ON SATURDAY 1 MARCH WITH PRIZE WINNERS NOTIFIED BY MONDAY 3 MARCH.

Help us re-use, recycle and raise funds at the used uniform sale on Saturday 26 April. The sale will be held from 10am until midday inside the Hub. Blazers and Hoodies are £10, everything else £5 and we will also be selling used study guides. This is a big fundraiser for the PTA so please donate any unwanted uniform (main reception at school).

Although the Burns Night tickets have now sold out you can still support the school by purchasing raffle tickets. See the poster for further details. Click [here](#) for my details.

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 our website at <https://membership.coop.co.uk/causes/93741>



## The new Sixth Form Student Leadership team

After a rigorous selection process including written applications, presentations to the whole school and Senate and finally formal interviews, we are delighted to announce the appointment of Sophie Rees and Alex Smith as Head Students.



Chiamaka Ekeledo, Holly Featherstone, Isaac Harris, Cameron Lindsey, Ingrid Martin and Flyn Wilson have been appointed as Deputies.

This group of students have been exceptional throughout the whole process and should be very proud of what they have achieved. This is a particularly impressive achievement given the large number of applications received from our Year 12 cohort.

It was a real privilege to hear them all speak this morning and an incredibly difficult decision to make, as they could all have brought something to the role. We will look forward to working with the team and seeing them all develop in their leadership roles.

## Business Studies trip to Disneyland Paris

Business A Level and BTEC students from Rossett and Harrogate Grammar School embarked on a trip to Disneyland Paris. The students stayed for two nights and attended a business seminar hosted at Disney before being able to see all their learning in practice at the parks.



The seminar talked them through the Disney journey and how the Disney brand was first created and then evolved over time. The seminar highlighted the importance of cash and how Disney ensure they have a steady cash flow, with additional profits being invested back into the parks and developing their iconic films.

Students were told how Disney heavily invest time and money into marketing to ensure that customers are aware and intrigued by their upcoming events and product launches. Even though Disney has a loyal customer base, they need to keep on bringing new ideas and innovations to stay ahead of their rivals.

The students were keen to visit the parks and ride as many rides as possible. The day was finished off with watching the new firework spectacular, which is a world-famous Disney show making use of building projections and drones to amaze guests. All students behaved impeccably, and it was a pleasure to offer them the opportunity.





# Life @ HGS

## Houses of Parliament trip

The Student Leadership Team had the fantastic opportunity to travel down to London and visit Tom Gordon the MP for Harrogate and Knaresborough.

Our tour including visiting Westminster Hall, the Parliamentary Chambers and Committee Rooms. We were struck by the splendour of the buildings as well as their incredible history. Whilst touring we were able to ask Tom lots of questions about his experiences during his election campaign and what Parliament is like for a new MP as well gaining lots of advice on leadership and working within a team.

The highlight of the day was watching a live debate about the expansion of Heathrow Airport from the public gallery in the House of Commons. Seeing MPs actively discussing key issues was fascinating and made us appreciate how much time and research was behind every decision.

It was such a rewarding experience and a fantastic opportunity to gain a rare insight into the everyday operations of the Houses of Parliament as well as being in the place where so many monumental decisions have been made.

- Head Students Eleanor Batiste & Molly Clubb



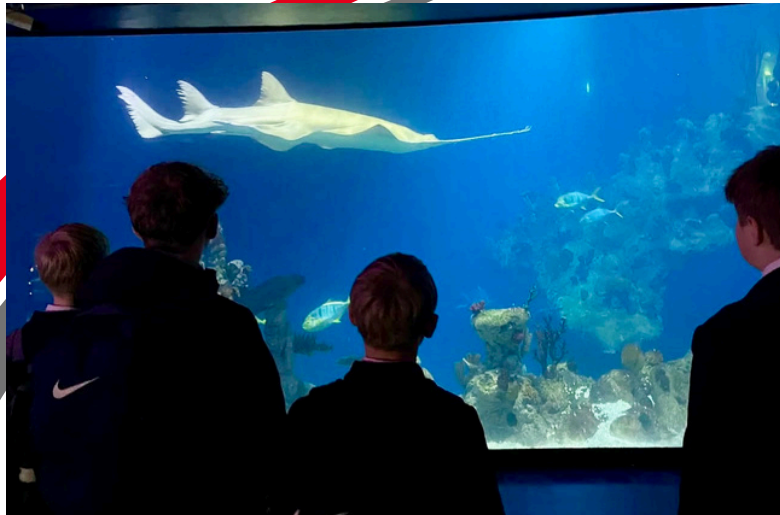
## Year 12 Career Pathway Talks



This term 15 industry professionals delivered presentations to our Year 12 students for the career pathway talks. The sessions provide students with an insight into a range of careers ranging from PR, accountancy and medical. We appreciate the time and effort from everyone who visited and inspired our students. If you would like to take part in the next career pathways talks on Tuesday 29 April please email [hgssixthform@hgs.rklt.co.uk](mailto:hgssixthform@hgs.rklt.co.uk).



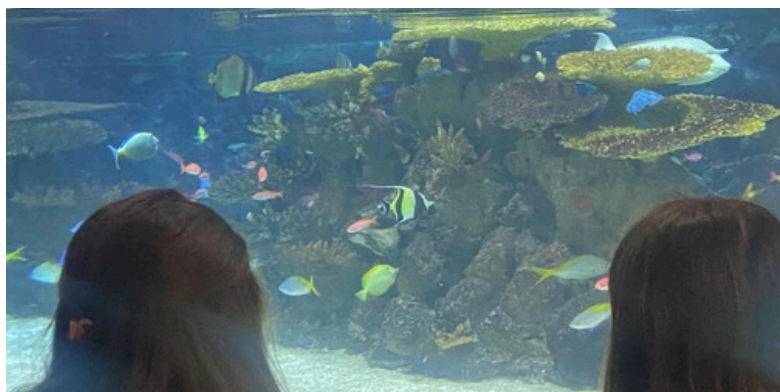
# Life @ HGS



## Trip to The Deep in Hull - student review by Sanhita in Year 8

One of the most unique and enjoyable parts of the trip was the clear lift and scenic stairs. During the lift ride, we saw the sting rays, swordfish and many more marine animals.

As we went round, we saw many aquatic animals and easy to read information boards next to them. For example, did you know the name piranha means tooth fish? The Deep also had a trail explaining the evolution of life. It included many fun facts which I hadn't heard before. A few of them were that complex life first appeared 2000 million years ago and the first animals with shells/jaws first appeared 400 million years ago. In The Deep, there were so many strange and wonderful marine animals which were amazing to see!



After we had seen all the sea life, we went into a separate room. There, a lady from the aquarium explained how much plastic can impact the planet and living creatures. A few facts we learnt were that plastic never fully disintegrates. It just keeps getting smaller and smaller. There are small amounts of plastic in the water and food we consume every day, and they are very bad for our bodies. Due to the food chain if one animal eats some plastic then all the creatures above it will also eat plastic. As well as listening to her explanation we did a few experiments. One of which was to see that plastic floats in salt water but not in tap water. They were very fun and informative as we learnt many facts that we hadn't known before.

Overall, I found The Deep trip very fun and interesting. The staff at The Deep were always giving extra information and we got more than enough time to see and do everything.







# Life @ HGS

## Blood Brothers production

It's time again for another excellent drama production, and this time it's Willy Russell's Blood Brothers. Our cast and crew worked tirelessly to produce a unique iteration of the Blood Brothers text in play form. With contribution from Year 10 to Year 13, the blend between the original text and bold new direction from the drama department brought together quite the performance. We can personally say, as members of the cast, this group of people managed to craft a deeply emotional story to remember. Thank you for coming along, we hope you enjoyed the production.

- Contributions from Flynn & Max (Eddie and Mickey aged 18+)



## Battle of the Bands review by Year 12 student Flynn

On 23 January, HGS rocked on with Mr Mason at Battle of The Bands 2025. Students all the way through school from Year 7 to Year 13 competed for the top spot. The sheer talent this year was incredible, creating a tough choice for the judges, Diya, Mr Vincent, and Mr Mason. However, the win went to returning band, Defen, with their rendition of Iron Maidens 'Hallowed be thy Name'. In second and third were bands 'The 78s' and 'Outside the box'. The night hosted a mixture of genres, showcasing the skills of the amazing students involved. Well done to everyone involved, you rocked the night away.







# Life @ HGS

## French Exchange trip

A huge well done to the 27 students from Year 10 to Year 13, who recently returned from a week of immersion into French language and culture with the HGS French Exchange. Within hours of stepping off the plane, they found themselves in the homes of host families in a foreign country, listening to and speaking a different language, and getting used to the customs of a new way of living.



It was an adventure that enriched, excited and educated in equal measures. During the day, students spent time in lessons at our partner school, went on cultural visits, such as to the ruins and memorial of Oradour-sur-Glane, and had time to explore the local town Saint-Junien and city of Limoges.

For many, there was a tearful farewell following happy memories made and new international friendships formed. As we look ahead to the home leg from 22-29 March, exchange participants will have the chance to repay the kindness shown by their French hosts and we look forward to welcoming those French students and their teachers to HGS, showing them around the sights and delights of North Yorkshire, and hopefully giving them as happy and enriching a week as we were given in France.





# Faculty Focus

## Maths at HGS

The Spring term has been busy for the Maths faculty. Our Year 7 students have developed their problem solving and reasoning skills during the Monday Axiom Maths circle sessions. We have had several Maths Challenges take place. Students in Years 12 and 13 participated in the Senior Maths Challenge, while others in Years 9, 10 and 11 competed in the Intermediate Maths Challenge. Four of our students successfully advanced into the Senior Maths Kangaroo. Moreover, two of our Year 12 students represented Team HGS in the 2024 Ritangle competition. The team competed against other schools in a series of problem solving challenges over ten weeks and received a commendation for their efforts. Click [here](#) for more details on the Ritangle competition.



Axiom class Year 7

We celebrated this year's Number Day with an Interhouse quiz. Students had to guess the favourite numbers of various Maths teachers throughout the week. Other faculties also showcased how important numbers are in their subject areas on the day itself.



Senior Kangaroo



Intermediate Maths Challenge

Outside of the classroom, students have invested their time in their home learning through Sparx Maths. Our completion rates see HGS now regularly in the top 10 schools across the region. This is a testament to the work ethic of the students at our school. On top of Sparx, students in Key Stage 4 complete Skills Tasks. These are activities that are designed to support with the retrieval of key content throughout the GCSE course.





# Faculty Focus

GCSE students have been very conscientious since returning from the Christmas holidays. In preparation for their next set of mock exams, the students are working on past papers during Big Picture on Tuesdays as well as during Lesson 6 on Wednesdays. More and more students are attending the online masterclasses on Monday and Wednesday evenings. Moreover, students are doing a Staples lesson once a week. In this lesson, students sit half a GCSE paper in exam conditions, self-assess the exam, and complete a reflection document. Thanks to these lessons, students are getting more familiar with Edexcel exam questions, they are gaining experience at completing questions in exam conditions, and they are recognising topics to revise each week.

Lesson 6 Wednesday drop in



Big Picture revision for Year 11 students



Number day quiz

1

**Mr Hill**

My favourite number is the solution of  $5x - 9 = 2x + 3$

3

Guess **Mr Mooney's** favourite number?

The difference between the two numbers that are less than a hundred that are both square and cube numbers.

5

**Mr Reed**

What is the cube root of 3375?

2

**Mr Carne**

My favourite number is the only number that someone has knowingly been murdered for proving exists.

4

Guess **Mrs Moncaster's** favourite number?

My favourite number is a prime number and the sum of its 2 digits is a square number.

6

**Mrs Allsopp – do you know?**

(the number of days in September) x (the number of sides on a nonagon) – (half the number of vertices on a triangular prism)?



### INTERHOUSE NUMBER DAY COMPETITION

Use [this link](#) to record your answers.

All entries by 3.30pm on Friday 7 February.

Open to all year groups.







# HGS Sport



U14s Boys Rugby team



U14s Girls Netball team



Rugby Sports Academy team



## Sports Focus

After a snowy and disrupted start to the term it was great to be able to get the sports clubs and fixtures back to normal.

There have been some fantastic achievements across different sports:

- U12 Girls' Football - won the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of the County Cup
- U14 Boys' Rugby - the team shared the Yorkshire Cup with BBG Academy after a dramatic 24-24 draw in the final. A brilliant effort from all involved.
- U16 Girls' Netball - the team performed brilliantly at the Yorkshire Regional Finals, finishing an impressive 5<sup>th</sup> overall.
- U19 Boys' Table Tennis - the team progressed to the North of England Finals, finishing in a respectable 3<sup>rd</sup> place. They faced incredibly tough competition, coming up against schools with national top 10 ranked players.

A huge well done to all students for their dedication and hard work. We look forward to even more success in the second half of the term.

Each academic year we ask if parents/carers can contribute towards the running of the school sports events. Thank you to the families who have already made a voluntary contribution. If you would like to contribute please visit the Parent Arbor App and select School Shop.