



HARROGATE
GRAMMAR SCHOOL
EXCELLENCE FOR ALL

8 September 2023

Dear Parents/Carers of all students in Key stage 3 (Years 7, 8 and 9)

Key Stage 3 Welcome and Key Information

It is a pleasure to welcome students back to school after the summer break, and especially our new year 7 cohort who now join us on their journey through secondary school. The start of the new academic year presents an opportunity for students to set themselves personal targets and to establish a suitable strategy to ensure that they realise their ambition. This is an important year for all students, but particularly Year 9 who make their GCSE choices in the Spring Term.

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 attendance falls below 97%. We ask that you complete [this online absence form](#) before 9.30am if your child is ill. 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.

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 and 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 our [Learner Habits](#), which are habits that learners need to exhibit to ensure that they are able to achieve the very best outcomes for themselves. As each student arrives to a lesson they will be marked as being an excellent learner from the start, if at any stage in the lesson after that they are not meeting the expectations around that habit, we will be recording that change is needed. Students will know what it is they need to work on in order to best support their progress moving forward.

HGS mindset

The start of the year provides an opportunity for students to reflect on the effectiveness of their learning. It is important that students are able to learn habits that help to commit learning to long-term memory, and which allows them to apply knowledge in a purposeful way. As part of this, we will focus on explicit vocabulary instruction across all subjects as well as retrieval practices. By teaching our students a greater understanding of the words they use, they will build their understanding and knowledge of the subjects they study. All home learning tasks assigned to students will be available via their Arbor app on their iPads. Parents will also have access to this information via the [Parent Arbor app](#).

It is important that students commit to developing a positive mindset, and we will be working with students to build this foundation for success ready for KS4 and GCSEs.

Reading and Oracy

Harrogate Grammar School, Arthurs Avenue, Harrogate, North Yorkshire HG2 0DZ

Tel: 01423 531127 | mail@hgs.rklt.co.uk | www.harrogategrammar.co.uk

Headteacher: Mr N Renton | Associate Headteacher: Mrs K Moat

Harrogate Grammar School is part of the Red Kite Learning Trust, a charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales with company number 7523507, registered office: as above.

Our Privacy Notice can be found on: <https://www.harrogategrammar.co.uk/our-school/our-policies/statutory-documentation/>



We are once again very fortunate to be supported by our PTA who have funded the purchase of books for our new year 7 cohort. This means that by the end of the summer all students will have read the same book as part of their transition to HGS. Reading is of great importance to us here at HGS and we ask that you support us in this by helping 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.

We are also very excited to be continuing our oracy work this year across the school. With a rapidly changing jobs market it is hard to fully predict what skills our students will need for roles that may not even exist yet. However, feedback from industries is largely the same every year, they want candidates that are confident, capable and articulate speakers and this is something that we are passionate about teaching our students. As part of our drive to further develop oracy, we will be using our Votes for Schools topics to practise these skills further. This is an award-winning platform that each week allows students to investigate and debate current affairs before casting a vote. As part of this work, we teach the students how to structure a balanced and informed debate. We encourage you to support this by talking to your child about the weekly topic and engaging them in what their thoughts are as they prepare to cast their votes.

Support and Help through KS3

Year 7, 8 and 9 have dedicated Year Managers who should be the first point of contact for any issues students and parents may have.

Year 7 is Mr Manning ManningS@hgs.rklt.co.uk Tel: 01423 531127 ext: 7046

Year 8 is Mrs Ellenthorpe EllenthorpeM@hgs.rklt.co.uk Tel: 01423 531127 ext: 7051

Year 9 is Mr Thurley ThurleyA@hgs.rklt.co.uk Tel: 01423 531127 ext: 7054

Key Dates for this Year

Date	Event
Monday 11 September	Year 7 School Photos
Wednesday 13 September	Year 7 SEND Consultation evening virtual event
Thursday 14 September	Year 7 Parent Social Evening 7-9pm
Wednesday 20 September	Year 8 SEND Consultation evening virtual event
w/c 25 September	Year 9 Outward Bound Trips
Wednesday 27 September	Year 9 SEND Consultation evening virtual event
Friday 13 October	Big Picture Day
Wednesday 25 October	Year 7 Tutor Consultation Evening 2pm virtual event
w/c 11 December	Year 9 Options information to students and parents
Wednesday 10 January	Year 7 SEND Consultation evening virtual event
Tuesday 16 January	Year 9 Consultation evening 4-7pm virtual event
Tuesday 12 March	Year 8 Consultation Evening 4-8pm virtual event
Tuesday 23 April	Year 7 Consultation evening 4-8pm virtual event
w/c 3 and 10 June	Years 7 to 9 Summer CATs
Wednesday 12 June	Year 8 SEND Consultation evening virtual event
Wednesday 19 June	Year 9 SEND Consultation evening virtual event
Wednesday 3 July	Big Picture Day
Thursday 4 July	Year 7/8 Sports Day and Year 9 End of Year trip
Friday 12 July	Year 9 Sports Day and Year 7/8 End of Year trip
School Term dates can be found here: Term Dates	

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Victoria Gee'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'V' and a circular flourish at the end.

Miss V Gee
Assistant Headteacher, Director of Lower School