



The Sixth Form

at Harrogate Grammar School
Excellence For All

15 November 2023

To Parents/Carers of all students in Year 13

The Sixth Form Team and teachers have been impressed with the positive focus and attitude shown by Year 13 students at the start of their final year in school. We would like to take this opportunity to share information about how we are supporting students to prepare for the mock exams, and support offered to students during this period.

Mock exams: 8 – 19 January

Please find attached the timetable for the forthcoming Year 13 mock exams. Students will receive a more detailed timetable in due course, including which specific rooms their exams are in and additional information where students may have clashes.

The mock exams provide an excellent opportunity for students to experience the process of sitting full exam papers as they will do in the summer. The process enables students to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding, and also allows students to identify gaps in knowledge and skills and to prioritise areas of focus in preparation for the summer. It is essential that they approach these exams in a serious and focused manner.

In order for students to have the opportunity to prepare in the best possible way for their examinations, students will have home study leave from 8 - 19 January and are only required to come into school for their exams. Study areas in school will however be open, if students would prefer to come in to school to work, or for students who may need to wait for buses after an exam and need somewhere to study. Students studying design subjects, will have fewer written examinations and are therefore strongly encouraged to come into school to use the studio space and equipment during the mock period. Students can work independently in their own space, and teachers will be on hand to work with students during their normal timetabled lessons.

All exams will be conducted under formal exam conditions, therefore there must be silence upon entering and leaving the exam room as well as during the exam. Students must not take any type of device into the exam room, such as a mobile phone or smart watch. Bags and devices must be left in the bag room in advance of an examination. All writing equipment must be in a clear, see-through pencil case or plastic bag and any water bottles must be clear/see through, without no writing on them and have any labels removed. Students must conform to the Sixth Form dress code for all exams.

Academic support for mock exams

Throughout the half term, subject teachers will continue to cover content for the course within lessons. In addition to home learning tasks, teachers will be setting formal revision activities on a weekly basis to provide a clear focus for independent study time in preparation for the mocks.

A number of revision sessions are running on a weekly basis, either at lunch time or after school. These sessions are publicised in the bulletin each week. In the final week of the

term, teachers will help students to consolidate their revision and help them to plan their time effectively over the Christmas break so they are prepared for the exams in the New Year.

In addition, students have had a Tuesday morning Progression session dedicated to study skills and revision techniques. This work continues on a one-to-one basis through a series of individual meetings between members of the Sixth Form Team and identified students. The purpose of these meetings is to unlock barriers to learning through building confidence and improving study habits to support them in achieving their full potential.

Wellbeing and progression support

We understand that this can be a stressful time for students. Form Tutors and Student Support Managers remain the first point of contact for students if they have any questions or concerns. In the final week of term, students will participate in a session led by a representative from the charity CALM, focusing on managing stress and anxiety around exams. The weekly bulletin also contains several resources including useful websites which provide information about managing exam stress and maintaining positive mental health.

A large number of university and apprenticeship applications have been submitted by students and we ask that they remain patient whilst we make the final checks before formally submitting the application to UCAS. Students who are in the process of completing an application are encouraged to submit these as soon as possible in order that the checks can take place in advance of final submission. Our independent Careers Adviser, Mrs Mitchell email MitchellK@hgs.rklt.co.uk is also available to meet with students to discuss career options beyond the Sixth Form.

Public examination results

The provisional dates of A Level and Btec external examinations are 13 May – 24 June. We will inform you of the confirmed dates when these are published. To help with any forward planning, we are able to let you know that A Level and Btec results will be published on 15 August 2023. Results for EPQs, some Btec topics, and GCSE re-sit exams will be published on 11 January 2024.

Upcoming dates

Date	Event
Wednesday 29 November	Medical conference for applicants to medical, dentistry and veterinary courses
Monday 8 January to Friday 19 January	Internal 'mock' exams
Monday 22 January	Full timetabled lessons resume
Tuesday 27 February	Parent Consultation Evening, 4pm – virtual event

Please do not hesitate to contact the Sixth Form Team if you have any questions or concerns about the term ahead: HGSsixthform@hgs.rklt.co.uk.

We wish students all the very best in their preparation for their mock examinations.

Yours sincerely



Mr B Twitchin
Director of Sixth Form

KS5 INTERNAL EXAMINATIONS - WEEK 3

	Monday 22/01			Tuesday 23/01			Wednesday 24/01		
	Subject	Cands	Length	Subject	Cands	Length	Subject	Cands	Length
Session 1 9:00am	<p>A Level Art P 1 to 6</p>			<p>A Level Graphics P 1 to 6</p>			<p>A Level Photography P 1 to 5</p>		
Session 2 12:00pm									
Session 3 1:30pm									