



The Sixth Form

at Harrogate Grammar School
Excellence For All

20 December 2018

Dear Parents/Carers and Students

Sixth Form students have had a very busy first term. Year 13 students have been completing their applications for university through UCAS and many out of the 220 applicants so far have received a range of impressive offers. In addition to their studies, Year 12 students have been seeking work experience placements, and have taken part in Package events. This involved listening to leading professionals in a broad range of areas such as Law, Medicine, STEM, Business, Arts and Education.

We have been impressed with the active contribution of our students not only through sport, but also through music and drama and their daily help in and around school. Year 13 students have completed their roles as Prefects and we have appointed new Year 12 Prefects for the coming year. This year some of our Year 12 students have been helping Year 6 students at Coppice Valley School as Reading Prefects. We would like to thank the Year 13 Prefects for the significant contribution that they have made.

The Head Student Team have successfully arranged a number of weekly lunchtime Acoustic Friday sessions this term. In addition, they will be starting preparations for the Leavers Ball when we return in January. We have had a number of successful fundraising events this term for the following charities:

- 'Purple up your business dress', raising £205.11 for POPYRUS
- 'Pink up your business dress', raising £350.51 for Breast Cancer awareness
- Coffee Morning donations, raising £222.45 for Martin House
- Christmas Jumper Day, raising £170.30 for Save the Children

Year 13 Mock Exams

The aim of these examinations is to recreate the experience of external examinations so that students:

- Gain greater understanding of the standard required at A Level
- Complete revision and consolidate the material studied so far
- Develop examination technique and revision skills
- Receive accurate feedback on their current level of performance in advance of the final summer exams

This year the mock examination period will commence on Monday 7 January for **two weeks**.

- Students are allowed **AM study leave if they have a PM session examination**.
- On Wednesday 16 January students who are taking Geography A and AS Level at 11.30am are permitted **AM study leave**
- If students have an **AM** session and a **PM** session examination in the same day, they are not expected to return to lessons between these times.
- Students are expected to be in lessons at all other times.
- The only Year 12 students who will be taking mock examinations are those studying AS Maths.

We have asked the teachers to feedback results to students as soon as possible after they have marked their examinations. We will email these outcomes to parents in the week commencing 18 February. An additional Year 13 Parent/Carer Consultation Evening will take place on Tuesday 19 February. In addition, a further evening for the parents of Year 13 students will take place on Wednesday 6 March where we will outline strategies to raise performance and effective study habits in preparation for the summer examinations.

We appreciate that preparation for any examination can be a stressful experience. Please do not hesitate to contact one of the Sixth Form team before or during this period if you have any concerns.

- Mrs Vincent, Deputy Director of Sixth Form: ljb@harrogategrammar.co.uk
- Mrs Jackson, Student Support Manager: cjj@harrogategrammar.co.uk
- Miss Watson, Senior Tutor: jxw@harrogategrammar.co.uk
- Dr Gregson, Student Advisor: szg@harrogategrammar.co.uk

Students will receive an email from the Exams Office confirming their examination timetable.

Routines and Expectations

As we approach the end of term we would like to take this opportunity to remind students and parents/carers of the following:

- We encourage students to undertake 16 hours per week of independent study outside of lessons.
- We look for high levels of attendance and will contact you if there is an unexplained absence.
- If at all possible, medical and dental appointments need to be made outside school time.
- In Year 12 students register daily with their tutor at 8.50am.
- In Year 13 students register in their first lesson (Tuesday-Friday), but register with their tutor at 8.50am each Monday.
- Please call Mrs Reed (01423 535236) or email tar@harrogategrammar.co.uk before 10am in the case of illness so that staff can be informed.
- If a student is ill during the school day, they must report to Sixth Form Reception who will make an assessment as to whether they should remain in school.
- It is important that students do not take on excessive commitments out of school that are likely to impinge on their study time.
- Students are issued with an ID badge and this must be visibly worn at all times to help safeguard all members of our community.
- All students are expected to adhere to the Sixth Form Dress Code as published in the Sixth Form Handbook. <http://www.harrogategrammar.co.uk/sixth-form/life/sixth-form-handbook/>

Year 12 Work Experience

All Year 12 students will take part in work experience week commencing Monday 15 July. Students have been asked to find a placement using the NYBEP database or personal contacts. Any student needing further guidance should email bxw@harrogategrammar.co.uk.

We will write to Year 13 students in the new year to confirm the payment schedule for the leavers activities. The Leavers Ball this year will take place on Saturday 29 June and study leave will commence on Friday 17 May.

We would like to sincerely thank parents/carers for all the support that they have given to students and the school this term. We fully recognise and respect the considerable efforts that have been made and we hope that all students have a well-deserved rest before they return. We would also like to wish the Year 13 students the very best of luck in their mock examinations.

Spring Term commences on Monday 7 January at 8.50am.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Sixth Form Team on sixthform@harrogategrammar.co.uk if you require further information.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Neri Renton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Mr N Renton
Head of Sixth Form
Associate Headteacher