



HARROGATE
GRAMMAR SCHOOL
EXCELLENCE FOR ALL

START OF TERM MESSAGE 2019

We would like to formally welcome all students to the new school year. We look forward to working with students and families in a way which we hope best serves their education and effectively shapes their future.

Students new to the school are joining our culture of 'Excellence for All'. We were delighted to see so many of our Y13 students securing their first-choice university or securing the next stage of their career on results day. With 56% of grades at A*-B, the Sixth Form has achieved consistently high outcomes over the last six years. Similarly, at GCSE, we saw the vast majority of students progress into Sixth Form and anticipate that our progress measures will place us in the top percentiles of the National league tables. In English and maths, 81% of grades were at grades 9-4 and 34% were at the top grades of 9-7. These outcomes reflect the hard work of students, teachers and families over many years and are a real credit to our students.

Please to see our [results day video](#) and the links below to see our press releases on GCSE and A Level results:

[GCSE results](#)

[A Level results](#)

We know that outcomes are only one part of the success of our school and we have spent the week revisiting our school values. Students have made an impressive start to the new year, engaging in lessons and wearing their uniform correctly.

Progress and Support

The school is divided over the 7 year groups into year teams and smaller tutor groups. Each tutor will work closely with your son/daughter to discuss, monitor and support progress and wellbeing. In addition, each year group has an allocated year manager who should be your first point of contact.

Year 7 – Ms Brown – cfb@harrogategrammar.co.uk

Year 8 – Mrs Smithson – dhs@harrogategrammar.co.uk

Year 9 – Mrs Ellenthorpe – mce@harrogategrammar.co.uk

Year 10 – Ms Moore – dfm@harrogategrammar.co.uk

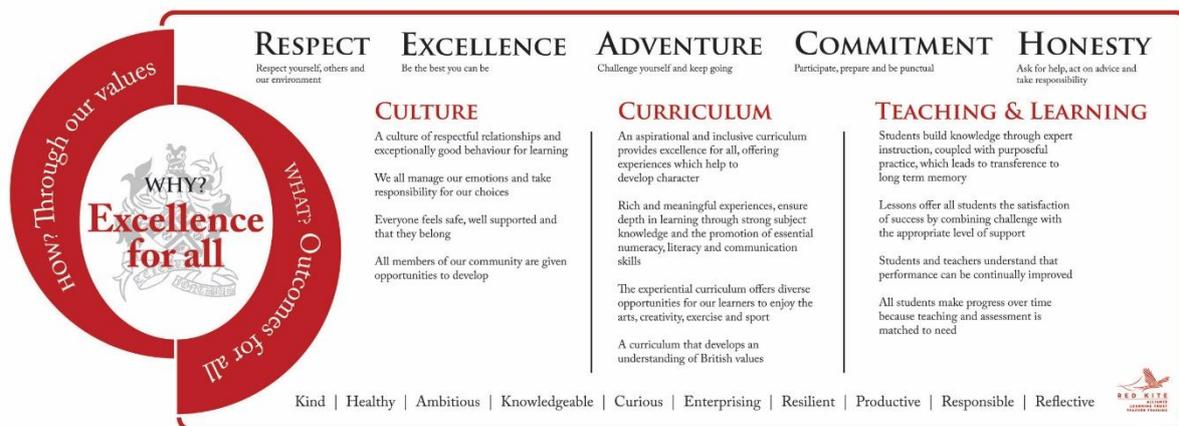
Year 11 – Mrs Bennett – ceb@harrogategrammar.co.uk

Sixth Form – Mrs Jackson – cjj@harrogategrammar.co.uk

Throughout the year we will release student reports through our [Homework4 app](#) and you will also receive information about the booking system for consultation evenings.

New OFSTED

You may be aware of recent changes to the way in which schools are inspected, placing greater emphasis on the curriculum – the intention behind its design, how we implement the curriculum and its impact. Our curriculum offer at HGS is broad and balanced, but we have seized the developments from OFSTED to reflect on and evaluate the sequence of learning across faculties to ensure that learning sticks. We have also spent some time really clarifying the overall intent of our school. Our core purpose is to provide 'Excellence for All' and we achieve this through the five REACH values that we embody, role model and teach: Respect, Excellence, Adventure, Commitment and Honesty. In practical terms, we have three pillars of central focus – a culture of respectful relationships, an aspirational and inclusive curriculum and expert instruction. As a result of our work in these three pillars and our focus on values, we achieve not only our academic outcomes, but a broader set of outcomes in terms of kind, healthy, ambitious, knowledgeable, curious, enterprising, resilient, productive, responsible and reflective young people as they move on from our school community. Please see our summary graphic below:



Developments

This year we will continue to work towards achieving the Mental Health Award with The Carnegie Centre of Excellence, based at Leeds Beckett University. Last year, all staff have undertaken Compass Buzz training, the Senior Leadership team and Year Managers have been trained as Mental Health First Aiders and a new 'Relationship and Behaviour Policy' has been developed. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the parental group who worked with Mr Milburn in the development of this policy.

[Relationship and Behaviour Policy](#)



Significant work has taken place over the summer to improve Gym 2 with new windows, new flooring and redecoration. In addition, redecoration has taken place on the humanities corridor, the music corridors and a number of classrooms.

We have been working closely with NYCC and also the RKLTL to secure funds to build three additional classrooms and we hope that this work will commence just before the Christmas break with completion for September 2020. Working closely with our architects, Bowman Riley, we have an innovative design that will not only provide additional classrooms, but a new student entrance. The design also addresses some of the congestion that we face during lesson transition times and provides a large atrium that we can use during the winter weather to keep the children warm and dry. We have been working with great care in the early planning stages to ensure that we minimise disruption and ensure the safety of our students during the building works.

Keeping children safe

Please note that the designated safeguarding people in school are Mr Milburn, Mr Powell and Mr Mason. Our safeguarding and child protection policy is available on the school website [here](#).

Mobile Phones

We have revised how we will implement the misuse of mobile phones policy at HGS. Students are not allowed their mobile phones at any point between 8:45am and 3:30pm. If they are seen with a phone, students will receive up to 3 warnings per half term, in the form of a negative comment. On the third warning they will be required to hand their phone in each morning for a period of 4 weeks. If this happens you will be informed via ClassCharts and email. If you need to urgently contact your child, please contact main reception on 01423 531127.

Communication

We encourage parents to follow the school on twitter @HarrogateGS and to use the school website, which contains a whole host of useful information, such as the student handbook and regular news stories: www.harrogategrammar.co.uk. Each week you will receive a parent bulletin, containing key dates and messages, news from our PTA and stories celebrating student achievements.

As you are aware, the UCI World Championships will take place in Harrogate in September and we will keep you up to date with any disruption that this may cause. We hope to celebrate this event with commissioned art work, a Year 7 human bicycle and assemblies from the event organisers.

Please click [here](#) to see our updated letter and further information about the UCI World Championships Letter.

The new term

In our welcome assemblies, we explained key developments over the summer and stressed the important message of five ways to well-being: connecting with people around you, being active, learning new skills, giving to others and taking notice. We will continue to prioritise this important message throughout the year in all aspects of school life.

We would like to welcome our new Deputy Headteacher – Director of Sixth Form, Mr Jonathan Powell and our new Assistant Headteacher – Executive Head of Maths, Ms Nicola Fareham, along with all other new staff who have joined HGS this week. Please click [here](#) to see photographs of the Senior Leadership Team.

We also wish our Student Leadership team a successful year in their leadership of the Student Senate and their important work on student voice. Joe Nichols and Phoebe Kyriakopoulos are Head Students with Olivia Searle, Tom Richardson, Grace Brennan, Matthew Warren, Amy Rees and Sam Ignatiou as Deputies.



One element of your child's learning that we would like to highlight and encourage throughout the school is our reading pledge. Please encourage your child to make a pledge to read for 30 minutes per day for the rest of the school year.

An important theme this year in school is that of sustainability and how we can all work together in order to protect our environment. We encourage students to bring a reusable water bottle, which can be refilled from one of the water fountains found around school. Students in the Sixth Form can also bring their own reusable coffee cups, which gives them a 10p reduction per drink. Another new initiative from the catering team will be to trial 'Meat-free Monday' every third Monday with effect from Monday 23rd September. This is following visits to other schools, research findings and recent press coverage on the sustainability of our food sources.

In addition, to maintain the efficiency of the services provided by the school, we kindly request that all funds for Trips, iPads and Catering, are processed through the school's online payment system.

We very much look forward to another successful year, continuing to work with our school community and beyond, to achieve the very best for all of our students.

Best wishes for the year ahead.

Neil Renton

Headteacher

Kirstie Moat

Associate Headteacher