Harrogate Grammar School is a Top 20 STATE SCHOOL for SPORT in ENGLAND for 2019

Each year School Sports Magazine follows the results of over 120 competitions in more than 20 different sports, to highlight the schools that have achieved the best results on the national stage. To qualify for the top 100 list, schools typically have to reach the later stages of at least three or four national competitions. This month we received the fantastic news that we have been ranked 20th in the country, comfortably in the top 1% of state schools for sport in 2018-19!

This outstanding result is due to the incredible success of the schools’ sports teams and performers in national and regional competitions across 2018-2019. Throughout the school year, our teams took part in approximately 500 individual fixtures, with around 6,000 student representations in a wide range of sports. Highlights include:

6 National Finals (U16 & U19 Netball, Individual Cross-Country, Intermediate Girls Cross-Country, U13 Boys Team Table Tennis, U13 Boys Individual Table Tennis)

1 North of England Final (U13 Boys Tennis)

This remarkable level of achievement is due to the support and commitment from so many people in ‘HGS Sport’ including: our amazing students, parents, local coaches & clubs and highly committed HGS staff.

Congratulations to everyone involved in a fantastic year of sport. With 2019-20 already off to a flying start, who knows what successes this year will bring!

Chris McDonald
Faculty Leader PE

Harrogate Grammar is proud to present our successful students, who have achieved excellent results in a wide array of sports this term at County, Regional and National level. This success has been achieved not only by a dedicated department, but also through the help of other staff and local clubs, such as Harrogate Racquets Club and Harrogate Town Football Club. Well done to you all - we are so proud of all our students.
What an exciting start for our new netballers this year. Did you know that the Year 7s have 4 netball teams? We want to give as many students as possible the chance to represent the school and be part of the squad. Their first match was against Ripon Grammar and they smashed it! The A Team won 14-5 and the B Team won 11-2. Against St Aidan’s, we also had 4 wins. Team A won 10-3, B won 11-1 C won 3-1 and D won 5-0. Miss Howard was so proud of them all. Against Prince Henry’s, Team A had a narrow loss of 11 goals to 16, although they kept the opposition fighting for their lead. Our next match was against Woodhouse Grove, the A Team had a very competitive match and lost 9-13. B,C and D Teams all had wins of 13-9, 15-1 and 13-0 respectively. Their last match against GSAL resulted in 3 wins. Miss Howard reflected, ‘Over the term, Year 7 have finished with 15 wins out of 18 matches. We are all so proud of them and I can’t wait to see what else they can do.’

Before a training session had even taken place, Miss Skidmore’s Under 13 netball team had a very competitive start to their term in the first round of a new National Netball Competition, ‘Sisters ‘n’ Sport’. The girls travelled away to an extremely strong Yarm team. Miss Skidmore was very proud of the girls ‘playing their socks off so early in the season’. From this, the team were entered into the ‘Sisters ‘n’ Sport’ Plate competition where they gained wins over Queen Ethelburga’s 45 - 10 and Goole Academy last month, winning 23 - 18. We look forward to the next round. Good luck girls.

U13 squad training has been extremely positive this year with 24 girls attending every week. They have been working hard, to improve their fundamental ball skills and match play come rain, shine, wind and freezing temperatures. Keep up the hard work and dedication girls.

U13 recreational netball on a Friday continues to be very popular. Numbers have been extremely high with Mrs Collins recruiting Sports Leaders to help lead fun skill drills and games. There are fixtures in the diary for these girls in the new year so keep working hard girls.
The Under 16 Area Champions and U19 Area Reserve Champions both qualified for the North Yorkshire County Round Tournament held in November. Once again the standard was extremely high. The U16 team played some phenomenal netball showing pure resilience and class on court against some tough opposition to deservedly take the title of North Yorkshire Champions. This is a repeat of their achievements two years ago at U14. The U19s narrowly missed out on the title, however it was a fantastic achievement qualifying for the Regional Round as North Yorkshire Runners Up.

Miss Skidmore was delighted with how both her teams applied everything they had been working on in training, in terms of playing a possession game and playing with discipline on court. ‘Both teams played unbelievably’, commented Miss Skidmore. In the U16 final, versus St Peters, they were awesome. They needed to win to go through as North Yorkshire champions and were trailing by 3 goals. They pulled it back to win by 2. So, so proud!’

When Under 19s came in 2nd place as North Yorkshire’s Runners Up, and also qualifying for the Regional Finals in Sheffield, Miss Skidmore said, ‘U19s, as usual, were pure class. They were just pipped by Queen Ethelburga’s. Well done girls from all of the PE staff. You have done us all proud! Good luck in January.’

The Under 14s have had a great start to their matches. Miss Howard’s Year 9s first match against Ripon Grammar ended in a fantastic win of 32-28. This gave them practice for the Yorkshire Area Tournament held at Ashville in October. The team came 3rd, just missing out on getting through to the County Round, which was such a shame.... as Miss Howard said, ‘They should be proud of themselves as they have played so well.’ In October they also played Woodhouse Grove where the A Team drew 25-25 and the B Team lost 6-11. In their last match in November the A team were back on form, beating St Aidan’s with 18 goals to 17. Well done girls!

Miss Skidmore’s Year 10 team played their first match this year against Ilkley, in the new national competition, ‘Sisters ‘n’ Sport’. It was such a closely fought game, but unfortunately they lost by 23 goals to 24. Such a small margin. Next time girls! In October, they had another hard match against Ripon followed by Woodhouse Grove last month, which resulted in defeat. Miss Skidmore added, ‘U15 is a developmental year as there are no national competitions at this age group. Therefore the focus is on training and playing some highly competitive teams in preparation for the U16 English School Competition next year. Training has been going well with consistently high numbers each week. More fixtures are in the diary for the new year as we work towards end of season Area Tournaments in March.’
Our new U12, Year 7 rugby players have joined us raring to go. In their first match they beat Ashville 35-15. We couldn’t have asked for a better start! Beating Horsforth at home and away, 25-5 and 30-0, their confidence grew further. They met Rodillians in October, who are always a strong side due to 10% of their students being selected on sporting ability. The A Team drew 2-2 and the B Team narrowly lost, 5 tries to 7, a result they should be proud of. Well done – we look forward to more winning matches in the New Year!

In November, Mr Mackay also took 32, Year 7 boys to a rugby festival at Woodhouse Grove. 15 of the boys had never played rugby for school and the rest were B and C team players. The two teams played 3 matches each and won all of them. We hope this experience has spurred some of the boys on to come to rugby training in the future. Mr Mackay said, ‘It was a very rewarding experience and a great idea from Woodhouse Grove. Many thanks to them and the opportunity to play on their 4G. I’ve never seen a cleaner set of rugby players after a match ever!’ He continued, ‘Nearly 50 boys have represented school so far which is outstanding and it bodes well for this year group in the future!’

Mr Brown’s U13, Year 8 rugby team, have had a fantastic term. They have had a convincing win over St John Fisher with 45 points to 5, and they also beat Horsforth, with 45-5 and 25-5 wins, home and away. They continued their winning streak by beating Ermysted’s 7 tries to 1. With 4 matches out of 6 resulting in a win, Mr. Brown would like to say, ‘I’m proud of you boys. Well done to you all and keep working hard for more of the same next term.’

Mr McDonald’s Year 9, Under 14 squad, have improved with each game this season. Starting with a loss against Ashville in their first match, they then drew against Horsforth at home with a score of 26 all. Their next match, in the County Cup, they secured a convincing win over Wales High School with 31 points to 12. In the Rodillians match the boys played really well in the first half, securing a 5-0 lead, but unfortunately they ran out of steam in the second half and lost 30-5. As Rodillians are a rugby academy, the half time score and the performance overall, were a credit to them. Their last match was away against Horsforth, in freezing conditions. It was a good game, in which they gained a win of 24-5. Mr McDonald would like to say, “We’ve seen real improvement this year and the boys are working hard. We are still developing as a team, but there is so much talent there to work with. Keep it up boys!”
Mr McIntyre’s Under 15 team had a good start to their rugby season with a win over Ashville of 30 points to 5. Mr McIntyre commented, ‘My super Year 10s sevens team won 6 tries to 1, with no subs!’ They put up a good fight against Prince Henry’s in the National Cup, but lost by 7 points to 49. Mr Mackay said, ‘Horberry set the bar with 3 tackles in the space of the first minute. Unfortunately, the 49-7 score line did not reflect the game.’ HGS were 15-0 down at half time. Prince Henrys scored 19 in the last 5 minutes as HGS faded. ‘Massive respect to those that turned out’, finished Mr. Mackay.

In October, the Under 16s played Prince Henry’s in the County Cup, winning 24-7. On 14 November, in freezing conditions, they also beat Horsforth in a friendly match, 8 tries to 1. A convincing win. Well done boys!

The Seniors team began the year with a loss of 5-33 against Ilkley in the 1st Round of the National Cup. However, in their second match against St. John Fisher they secured a win of 29-5. In Round 2 of the National Plate in October against Ampleforth, we were unfortunately knocked out with a loss of 3-24. Playing Ermysted’s in October, the team won 45-0. In November, against Ashville, they lost 6-19 after being up 6-5 at half time. The only real difference in the two halves, was the missing of two tackles, which resulted in 14 points for the opposition. Lastly, on a wet and cold day, the boys played Thomas Rotherham and were leading at half time. The match was called off due to a waterlogged pitch and will be re-played next term.

We are loving our new rugby kit. Our 1st team shirts and jackets are sponsored by Gambaru. Kit is also supplied by ex-student Callum Irvine, on behalf of S66 Sportswear. Thank you to them.
Following Thursday night training sessions in October, the Year 7 and 8 girls played in a festival at Ripon Outwood. This was the first time some of the Year 7s have played in a match and they were very nervous about tackling. They had no need to be, as they really threw themselves into it, literally! Mrs Collins was proud to see the girls tackling with pace and getting muddy. The Year 8 girls discussed tactics and supported their younger team mates throughout. With 1 win and 2 loses, they left the festival asking when their next match will be! They did not have to wait long, as it was on 20 November at Wetherby Rugby Club.

They played in two mixed ability teams. Team A won 2 and lost 2 matches. Team B won 1 and lost 3. Fabulous results considering some of the other teams had a lot of girls who played outside of school, at rugby clubs. This was another festival thoroughly enjoyed and we hope some of the girls might want to play for outside rugby clubs in the future!

The students had the opportunity to experience a live Premier-ship match on our annual visit to Leicester Tigers in half term. Once again, the students and staff showed off their catching skills in the ‘Big Boot Competition’. They caught more balls than the opposition and won £100 for the PE Department. Nice one!
ESAA Championships

In October, our U12-U15 students took part in the ESAA Cross country cup at St. Margaret’s School. All students who competed did extremely well as it was a flat course so the pace of the runners was extremely fast. The intermediate girls won the race and progressed onto the ESAA finals.

The U14/15 team which was made up with Flo Roberts, Eve Whitaker, Louisa Iberson, Ella Rowell and Amelie Aylesbury qualified for the National Finals, which took place on 7 December at Mount St Mary’s. In their race there were 145 girls competing and they travelled from all parts of the country. It was an extremely challenging course with long climbs and a strong set of runners. However, they did extremely well and came 6th in the country. Well done girls, the whole school are proud of you!

On 9 November, our U12 to U15 runners competed in the Regional Finals at Giggleswick. It was a really tough course with a lot of uphill climbs, and they all had to dig deep to keep going to the end. The following students deserve a special mention for finishing in the top 8 for their age group.

Girls Individual Results
Year 8 - Hazel Forrest 1st out of 50 runners, Year 9 - Amelia Aylsbury 2nd out of 21 runners, Year 10 - Eve Whitaker 2nd and Rose Forrest 3rd out of 27 runners

Boys Individual Results
Year 7 - Caleb Aylesbury was 3rd out of 78 runners, Year 8 - Keiron Hannula was 4th and Joseph Harris was 7th out of 32 runners

The results for the teams were as follows:

Girls Teams
Y7 finished 8th out of 16 teams, Y8 finished 3rd out of 14 teams, Y9 finished 3rd out of 10 teams, Y10 finished 1st of 9 teams

Boys Teams
Y7 finished 4th out of 15 teams, Y8 finished 4th out of 16 teams, Y9 finished 5th out of 13 teams, Y10 finished 3rd out of 8 teams

Well done to all runners. We are very proud of all your efforts!
The new U 12 hockey team played their first match against Rossett in November. The A team lost 1-3, and the B team won 2-1. They all enjoyed the competition and were so pleased with themselves as most of them had only played in PE lessons before. They then played in the preliminary rounds in the ‘IN2HOCKEY’ competition at St. Peter’s. They beat St Olaves B 2-0, lost to RGS 4-1, beat Queen Margaret’s 1-0, lost to Scarborough College 5-0 and lost to St Olave’s A 3-0. Unfortunately the girls didn’t qualify for the next round. They did however, thoroughly enjoy the opportunity and match experience. They are looking forward to their future matches. Miss Bakes would like to add, “We had a shaky start to the season with only about 6 people showing up to training from September to October. However, we’re now getting over 30 people every Wednesday and our A and B teams are getting stronger and stronger. I hope we can keep those numbers up in Year 8 and get a few more wins under our belt.”

Our talented Year 8 team played their first league match on 3 October against St Aidan’s. The A Team won 6-4 and our B Team unfortunately lost 8-0 - but they still had fun throughout and never gave up! In their second match against St Aidan’s, the A team remained unbeaten, with a score of 7-3, and B team defended better, with a loss of 0-3.

In November, the girls played in their preliminary round of the ‘IN2HOCKEY’ tournament. They beat Thirsk 2-0, lost to St Olave’s, Ripon Grammar and Giggleswick, but our team had a lot more shots on goal than the opposition. Then, they lost against Queen Mary’s 4-1. The girls did really well and, most importantly, enjoyed it. Miss Bakes commented, “If we had been a bit more accurate with our shooting, we would have won a couple more. Well done girls, you never gave up!”
The Year 9 team, coached by Miss Russell, made a fabulous start to their hockey season. With a win of 4-0 over St. Aidan’s in October. They entered the North Yorkshire Area Tournament on 30 September with enthusiasm and optimism. Over the day, the team had 3 score draws against Ripon Grammar, and Ashville and St. Aidan’s, although, Miss Bakes, who took the girls, said they did deserve to win as they were the better team on the day. They came 5th overall and unfortunately didn’t progress to the next round. They came back fighting in their return match against St Aidan’s and secured another 4-0 win. Miss Russell would like to add, ‘The Year 9 team have shown real determination throughout the year and have played very well as a team.’

On 19 September, the Year 10 Team played their first match as Under 15s against Rossett. They were 2-0 up in the first half and managed to maintain their lead in the second to win 3-2. Well played girls! In October, they played St Aidan’s. After the first half, they were down 0-3. They played so much better in the second half and put up a really good fight ending the game with a loss of 1 goal to 4. Miss Bakes would like to add, “Year 10 are waiting for their mixed hockey match against Hall Cross Academy to be re-scheduled after Christmas. They have a few more fixtures to play after Christmas, but they have been such a great team to be in charge of. Some of them are even starting to help out with the Year 7 girls’ training night on a Wednesday, which is excellent.”

In October, the under 19s played Ignatious Park, a visiting Australian Team, and they unfortunately lost 0-2. The U15 team beat Harrogate High School in their Schools County Cup match with a result of 16 goals to 0 and they will progress to the next round in the Cup. Well done! Our Under 14 team competed in the Harrogate and Craven Tournament, held at Rossett. After a nail biting play off for 3rd and 4th position, they beat St Aidan’s A Team by 2-1, to finish 3rd overall. They were very proud of themselves, as they should be. Under 14s are also through to the next round of the School County Cup after beating Nidderdale 4-0 in November. They will play Sherburn High School in their next match. Good luck boys!
**TABLE TENNIS**

**September—December 2019**

On 27 November, the Under 13 boys played in the ETTA Table Tennis Qualifier at St. John Fishers and won 7 games to 1. They will soon be representing HGS and North Yorkshire in the Zonal Finals competing against Cumbria, Durham, Yorkshire and Northumberland next term. Well done boys!

**BADMINTON**

**September—December 2019**

The Key Stage 3 Boys Badminton Team played in the English Badminton Association Team Competition. The B Team came 3rd in the pool. The A Team were unbeaten, defeating St Aidan’s 3-2. They will now progress to the County Finals on Wed 5 November. Well done to all of the boys and good luck to Team A next term.

The KS3 Girls Badminton Team, played in the County Badminton Schools Qualifier and won 2 matches, but lost to St Aidan’s 1-4 in the finals. Well done girls – you did yourselves proud.

**BASKETBALL**

**September—December 2019**

The Seniors basketball team started training in October and played King James U16A team in November. They won, 56-35. They followed it up with another win at St Aidan’s, against their B Team, winning by 56 goals to 36. Mr. Mackay said, “They are a very committed group of Year 11 and 12 boys who have now started to train and play on a regular basis. It is pleasing to note their progress which has resulted in the first victories of the season. Well done boys.”
The PE department are also very proud of the individual achievements of our students.

**RUGBY**

- 8 boys from HGS were selected to attend the England Rugby Development Player Pathway (ERDPP) Scheme, (with only 12 boys selected in this whole area)
- Harry Willard, Barney Horberry, Jacob Garrett and Jack Haydock are also part of the Leeds Academy Programme
- Harry Willard and Barney Horberry were selected for the County U16 programme
- Joe Nichols and Jack Haydock were selected for the County U18 Programme
- And, for the icing on the cake…….. Jack Haydock was recently voted ‘Try of the Month’ with the ‘England Rugby Competition’ on Twitter. The video of his try has received over 2.8 million views online!

**TENNIS**

September—December 2019

A hugely successful tennis season, our U12 and U14 girls and boys successfully defended the Asheville Cup, the girls U13 and U15s won the Area B Leagues and the U13 boys won the A and B Leagues. The teams also advanced to the County and Regional Qualifiers.

The U15 girls met a very strong Crossley Heath side who were eventual regional winners. The U13 boys were 3rd in the regional final, whilst the U13 girls went one better beating Bradford Grammar School in a very tense playoff. They reached the regional finals to become runners up.

In the A competition, the U13 boys quickly dispatched South Hunsley School to reach the North Finals. There they beat the Scottish Champions, Glasgow Academy, to reach the final. But, hopes of reaching our 1st National Final were dashed by a very strong Crossley Heath side. However to be runners up means we are still the strongest state school in the North as well as Nationally. Something to be very proud of!

**INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENTS**

September—December 2019

The PE department are also very proud of the individual achievements of our students.
Just before half term, four members of the HGS Equestrian Team made the lengthy trip down to Addington in Buckinghamshire for the NSEA National Championships. They had qualified for classes in Arena Eventing, BE Points League as well as Team and Individual Dressage. This five-day long competition involves riders from across Great Britain and qualifying slots there are keenly sought after.

The HGS team had a very pleasing trip, with numerous placings and rosettes across the classes. Particular highlights included Beth Harrison winning her Arena in the Preliminary Individual Dressage Class with a wonderful 81%, and Megan Harrison winning the Season Long BE80 Points League.

A month later, a different group of riders headed off to the Plate Championships held at Keysoe in Bedfordshire. Again, numerous schools from across the country were competing in Dressage, Show Jumping and Jumping with Style competitions. The students did themselves proud with team and individual placings in the Dressage, Jumping with Style and Show Jumping across a range of heights from 75-95 cm.

Students involved in the main championships are:-

Emily Gaskell Y10, Becky Weston Y9, Beth Harrison Y10 and Megan Harrison Y9

And, in the plate:

Betsy Martin Y11, Emily Kay Y13, Emily Clark Y13, Sophie Harris Y8 and Layla Brown Y8

Well done to all!
Skating

Ruby Rasmussen in Year 9 has been part of a winning team too. Her team, Bradford Synchronised Skating Academy were ‘Team of the Year,’ in the ‘Women In Sport North’ awards. Well done Ruby!

Swimming

Sassy Palfreman from Year 11 competed at the English Winter National Competition in December. She finished as the 7th fastest 16 year old nationally in her main event, the 200m butterfly. In January she travels to Luxembourg to compete in the Euro 2020 meet. This is in preparation for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Trials at the London Aquatic Centre in April, for which she has qualified (and all in her Year 11 exam year!) Currently she is training 9 times a week with City of Leeds Swimming Club. The PE Department wish you every success in Luxembourg Sassy. We’ll be waiting with bated breath for your results.

Karting

Maxwell Dodds from Year 9 has progressed from racing in the UK to competing in European and World Championships in 2019. The Championships saw him racing in 10 countries, partaking in over 20 races throughout a gruelling season. Racing with an Italian team, his rookie year was always going to be a steep learning curve. The tracks were new to him and his competitors all had more experience in this class. Competing against over 100 world class drivers, this is without doubt the toughest and closest racing in the world of karting. Max was also chosen to represent the UK in a World Series against 51 other countries where he achieved a podium. After a tough year of learning, Maxwell has made amazing progress and has paved the way to compete at the front in 2020. This season he will be racing for Forza Racing, a team that has won European and World titles. 2020 will be a massive year as Max heads into the European and World Series as a title contender culminating in Brazil in the World Finals. Max, we are all very proud of you at HGS and we cannot wait to hear your news next year.

Past Students

A former student from Harrogate Grammar School, Achele Agade is currently enjoying rugby at Harvard University. She helped her team become National Champions by scoring in the final, to beat the American Army Team. She was also ‘Student of the Month’ for athletic achievement. You just never know where your sporting achievements and aspirations may take you, do you?

Contact Us

We are always interested in our students’ sporting achievements outside of school. If you would like us to include your son or daughter’s achievements in the next newsletter, please email EZC@harrogategrammar.co.uk We are looking forward to hearing all about our talented students next year!