20 December 2019

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 of the 233 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 & Creative and Education and Public Services.

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 now completed their roles as Prefects and we would like to thank them for the significant contribution that they made. We have now appointed a large number of Year 12 Prefects, Reading Prefects and Peer Mentors for the coming year. We have also held successful fundraising events this term for the following charities:

- ‘Pink up your business dress’, raising £566.87 for Breast Cancer awareness
- Coffee Morning donations, raising £244.85 for Waste Aid
- Christmas Jumper Day, raising £534.00 for Save the Children and Frank’s Fund
- Non – Uniform Day, raising £588.67 for Waste Aid

**Year 13 Mock Exams**

Students have received an email from the Exams Office confirming their examination timetable. 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 6 January for **two weeks**.

- Students are allowed **AM study leave if they have a PM session examination**.
- On Wednesday 8 and Wednesday 15 January students who are taking Geography A Level, Chinese, Further Maths and Core Maths at 12 noon 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.

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 3 February.

**Key dates for Year 13 Parents/Carers and Students are as follows:**
• Year 13 Parents/Carers Consultation Evening – Tuesday 25 February
• Year 13 Information Evening – Wednesday 4 March

In the Information Evening we will outline strategies to raise performance and discuss effective study habits in preparation for the summer examinations. Jonathan Croall from The University of Huddersfield will also present advice about student finance.

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, in particular Mrs Jackson, Student Support Manager: gjj@harrogategrammar.co.uk, or Dr Gregson, Student Advisor: szg@harrogategrammar.co.uk

**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.
- Where possible, medical and dental **appointments** need to be made outside school time.
- 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.
- 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/](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 13 July. Any student needing further guidance should email Mrs Warren via: bxw@harrogategrammar.co.uk. She will be happy to support them in this matter. Students can also contact our external careers advisor Mrs Tunstall via: atunstall@harrogategrammar.co.uk, for any careers advice to support them with work experience and wider careers research.

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 27 June and study leave will commence from Friday 15 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 in their mock examinations.

Spring Term commences on Monday 6 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

Mrs Lucy Vincent                                                                 Mr Neil Renton  
Director of Sixth Form                                                                 Headteacher