



## The Sixth Form

at Harrogate Grammar School

Excellence For All

19 June 2020

Dear Student and Parent/Carer

The teachers and everyone in the Sixth Form team have been really impressed by the level of engagement and the quality of work produced by our students during this period of remote learning. While this method of learning has posed challenges for all of us, we must recognise all of our Year 12 students who have responded so positively in challenging circumstances.

As we enter the final weeks of the academic year, it is timely to provide some updates.

### Teaching provision

In addition to the lessons in school which have been communicated through the letter from Mr Renton and individual student timetables, students will continue to be set work for each lesson through Showbie, and will continue to take part in one live lesson per week for each subject. Students are expected to take part in these virtual live lessons through Microsoft Teams, and teachers should be informed in advance if there is a clear and valid reason why a student may not be able to participate.

### Progress Checks

Progress Checks will take place in each subject between 29 June – 10 July. The purpose of these checks is to assess the progress that has been made during this period, to identify gaps in knowledge and understanding to inform future teaching, and to provide students with clear feedback on their personal progress. These tasks will be set by subject teachers as part of the regular work pattern during this two-week period and must be completed on the day set. They will be reported through a CAT (Common Assessed Task) grade and by a further Teacher Estimate. The Teacher Estimate will be based holistically on progress made throughout the whole of Year 12.

Many students worry about UCAS predicted grades at this point. It is important to recognise that the CAT grade and summer Teacher Estimate reported does not represent the UCAS prediction for university applications. The UCAS predicted grades are arrived at in September in discussion with teachers, students and the overall performance in Year 12 and anticipated progress in Year 13. Please be reassured that we will have the circumstances that all students have faced at the forefront of our minds when making UCAS predictions this year.

### Progression and UCAS

This is an important time of year for Year 12 students as preparation for the next stage after Sixth Form begins. We continue to provide support for this through the following:

#### Stage 1: Initial Research and questionnaire

Students have already logged in to gain access to the Unifrog website. This is an excellent resource for researching options post-Sixth Form and is also the primary platform that the school uses for any personal statements and references. In addition, students have completed a progression questionnaire for their Form Tutor and discussed this in individual meetings.

Harrogate Grammar School, Arthurs Avenue, Harrogate, North Yorkshire HG2 0DZ

Tel: 01423 531127 | Email: [mail@harrogategrammar.co.uk](mailto:mail@harrogategrammar.co.uk) | [www.harrogategrammar.co.uk](http://www.harrogategrammar.co.uk)

Headteacher: Mr N Renton | Associate Headteacher: Mrs K Moat | Director Of Sixth Form: Mr B Twitchin

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We have also provided regular updates about university virtual open days, apprenticeships and much more in our weekly bulletin and through our social media.

### Stage 2: Progression programme

Our full progression programme will be available on the school website from the 22 June. This includes a comprehensive guide to support the progression process, with information about university applications, apprenticeships, degree apprenticeships and studying abroad. Rob Rattray, from Leeds Beckett University, has filmed two sessions on 'Making choices and personal statements' for us, which is accompanied by a detailed PowerPoint presentation produced by the Sixth Form team which provides all of the details and advice needed to engage in this process. Form Tutors continue to provide a first point of contact for the progression programme, and students should check Showbie regularly for updates.

### Stage 3: Tutor Review

A further individual conversation will be held between students and Form Tutors in the week commencing 13 July in which advice and guidance will be offered to support the progression process prior to the summer holiday.

### **Bridging work**

Students can expect to be set bridging work from each subject to complete over the summer in preparation for the start of Year 13. This is intended to provide a clear focus for students as they start the second phase of their courses. Work will be set on Showbie and through Homework4, and students are expected to complete the work in preparation for their first lesson in September.

I thank you for your continued support and understanding during this challenging period.

Yours Sincerely,



**Ben Twitchin**  
**Assistant Headteacher – Director of Sixth Form**