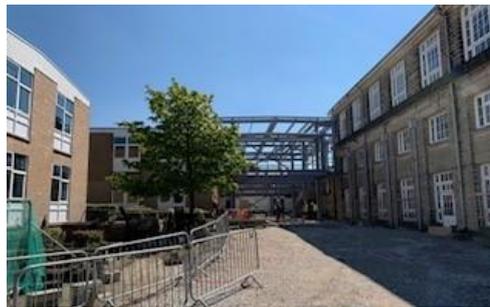




## End of Academic Year Message - Summer 2020

We would like to thank you for your understanding and support over the long and unprecedented period of school closure. Throughout the period of the main school closure, HGS remained open to the children of key workers whilst we delivered the vast majority of our provision online. Our online provision evolved over time with remote progress checks, use of voice recordings, live lessons in Year 12 and more recently live QA lessons in all year groups. In recent weeks, we have seen the return of Year 10, Year 12 and in the final week Year 9 students. It has been wonderful to see students starting to return to school as we build towards the intended full reopening in September. Last week, our new Year 7 students and Year 12 students completed virtual induction days. In the background, we have completed Centre Assessed Grades for Year 11 and Year 13 students. This year results days will take place remotely on the 13 August for A Level and the 20 August for GCSE, but with individual support available via Teams or in school. During the school closure, we have seized the opportunity to redecorate the vast majority of school, progress forward with our new build, which is set for completion at October break, and refurbish the girl's toilets.

### Signing the Steels of our new building



### Events this year

Despite the closure, the early part of the school year saw some wonderful events, with students across all year groups working together, demonstrating our school values of commitment and excellence.

Remembrance Evening involved a mixture of live performances and then class-room based activities from faculties across the school sharing what Remembrance means to them. There was a beautiful art installation in the form of a poppy ball gown.



The Christmas concert started the festive season in style. All ages played a range of instruments and sang beautiful songs. Highlights included Hannah Shimwell from Year 13 singing her solo performance and the singalong at the end of the whole event.



Our **Celebration Evening**, as always was an inspirational event, a hallmark of the academic year, where we celebrate success and aspiration, determination and resilience. Thought provoking speeches from Head Students Phoebe Kyriakopoulos and Joe Nicols, followed our wonderful key note speaker, Ellie Rymer, former HGS Head Girl, and all were met with resounding applause.



The year was spent in anticipation for the production of *The Sound of Music* at Harrogate Theatre. Rehearsals started promptly with principle casting across all year groups. The band was also made up of a range of years and the quality of their sound was outstanding. The art department was supported in building the fantastic set by Mike from the Site Team. With Miss Nicholls and Mrs Gregory at the helm, the students had a full day of rehearsal in the theatre with our student tech team supporting. Three productions later and the journey was done. There were stand out performances from Year 13 student Phoebe as Mother Abyss and the cast were expertly led by Year 12 student Ella Williams as Maria. A very special experience for all involved.



*Eddie Cluderay, Eve Townsend, Ryan Lam-Decker, Mia Felstead, Harry Barker, Isabell Trigoso, Biba Click, Annabel Vincent and Ella Williams*

## **PTA**

We would like to take the opportunity to formally thank the PTA for their outstanding contribution to the school over the last academic year. Various successful events have still taken place, including virtual quiz nights, wine box deliveries, second hand uniform sales and earlier in the year significant funds were raised at the first quiz night, the Burns Supper and the Christmas shopping event. The PTA are supporting the school next year by funding the installation of a 'Hydration Hub' with 4 water fountains in our new building. We are very grateful for their continued support of the school and if you would like to support any aspect of the work of the PTA in the future, please contact the Chair, Kirsty Leedham, on [kirsty.leedham@ntlworld.com](mailto:kirsty.leedham@ntlworld.com)



## **Mental Health and Well-being**

As part of our ongoing commitment to mental health you will be aware that we have partnered with a software company, Tranquiliti, to develop a wellbeing application that can be used by all students. Initially we were trialling this app with a Year 9 group, but as the COVID 19 epidemic resulted in school closure the developers very kindly rolled out this application to the whole school as a means of offering remote support. It is pleasing to see so many students engage in the app as it now becomes part of their weekly routine. There are over 800 students accessing the app and over 15,000 questions have been answered around wellbeing, mental health and experiences of school and school work, providing a really helpful insight into their experiences. The app also contains lots of useful resources that the students have accessed on topics such as sleep, routines and motivation. We hope to continue to use the app in the new academic year, but will look at evaluating its effectiveness, as well as supporting Tranquiliti to develop it further.

We have also been part of a pilot project to deliver Youth Mental Health First Aid courses to parents. The first cohort of 25 participants took part in a course just before the summer holidays, led by Pat Sowa. We hope that we can run more courses in the new year but for those who didn't get a place on the course, or would like more information, we have produced a short video where Pat explains the importance of mental health and also shares some strategies to support young people. This can be found [here](#).

## **Results Days**

We would like to acknowledge the very different end to the year, which our Year 11 and 13 students experienced in March. Students will receive results via email this year:

- **Thursday 13 August – A Level results**
- **Thursday 20 August – GCSE Results**

It is important to note that the Centre Assessed Grades reflect, like in any year, the hard work of students, support of families and teachers over many years at HGS. Despite the unique circumstances this year, we look forward to celebrating all of the students successes and wishing students well on the next step in their education.

## **Sixth Form**

We were pleased to announce our new Director of Sixth Form, Mr Ben Twitchin, who was appointed in May. Please click here to read our press release. <https://www.harrogategrammar.co.uk/news/new-director-of-sixth-form-appointed/>

We also look forward to 4 students joining us from the Canton of Vaude, Switzerland, who will no doubt contribute to languages in our school and give a new perspective to the Sixth Form.

Please click [here](#) to read the Sixth Form end of term message.

## **Charity**

We would like to thank Mr Silifant and the charities committee for their incredible fund-raising efforts on behalf of Waste Aid UK. This year, students have raised £8843 for Waste Aid UK and students from the charities committee have met with representatives from Waste Aid, to learn about how this money will be used.

In total however, we have raised a massive £11,486 this year overall. This figure represents a significant fundraising achievement and it is very likely that we would have achieved our target figure of £20K in 2020 if other uniform days and the annual 'Stayawake' had been able to take place. A big thank you to all those who have taken part and special thanks must go to Mr Milburn for his various 'Hair-brained' fundraising activities, the Maths Team for the marathon of marathons and the humanities team who joined the 2.6 challenge.

We have also seen amazing efforts from our students during lockdown, who have also contributed to the total fundraising.



A special thanks must go to the Design Team, who manufactured 3000 visors, which were [distributed across the region to help protect our health care professionals, including some of our alumni.](#)



### Staff Leavers

Every year, we see staff leave us for retirement or new opportunities away from HGS. We are very proud of the fact that our staff are able to make rapid progress in the profession as a result of being part of our

team. We have a number of colleagues who have served the school for a long period of time and have inspired generations of young people.

This year we have the following staff leaving us after more than 10 years of service and some considerably more:

- Mr Andy Brown after 10 years, who has made an outstanding contribution in PE and as an Assistant Headteacher.
- Mr Roy Mackay, after 32 years of service to HGS, who has inspired generations of young people to be the best versions of themselves and find confidence through sport. His dedication to sport in the school has been second to none.
- Mrs Eileen Boag, after 34 years, has worked with dignity and compassion to support children and families in learning support. In her time at the school, Mrs Boag has raised over £250,000 for school charities!
- Miss Beth Wood, having continued with us for the last two years following her retirement, has achieved 40 years of service. Miss Wood is a gifted teacher, with an infectious passion for languages. Her commitment to caring for our young people and families has been exceptional.
- Mrs Viv Bednarczyk has served the school for 40 years, pioneering and developing the Learning Support Faculty at HGS. Her care, compassion and kindness to young people has been simply outstanding.

We would like to thank them all for their loyalty, commitment and service to our school community.

### **Summer Holidays**

We have put together a [Summer Reading list](#), to continue to encourage reading across the school.

In the course of the academic year, we see on a daily basis the commitment and efforts of young people to achieve their own excellence. This year has been truly unique and we would like to thank all our students and parents for their continued efforts. We really look forward to welcoming students back in September and wish you all a very safe and happy holiday.

Mr Renton and Mrs Moat