



HARROGATE
GRAMMAR SCHOOL
EXCELLENCE FOR ALL

17 December 2020

Dear Parents / Carers and Year 11 Students,

We are immensely proud of our Year 11 students for the way in which they have worked throughout this term. Faced with a unique set of challenges, our students have shown great resilience and determination during this busy and unsettling term.

We understand that both students and parents / carers may be anxious about what lies ahead, and the intention of this letter is to answer some of the questions that you may have, and to provide an overview for the term ahead.

Summer exams

The summer exam period will begin on 26 May until 2 July. The government has been consistent in their policy that these exams will take place in England this summer and therefore we continue to support and prepare students to sit these important exams. Some adjustments have been announced by the government to support this cohort of students that has been affected by the COVID 19 pandemic.

- The exam period has been pushed back to the 24th May to provide 3 additional weeks of teaching time in school. The majority of the GCSE exams will take place after the Spring Bank half term holiday with only an English and Maths paper in the week prior to this holiday.
- The grading for GCSE exams in 2020 was mostly based on teacher assessment which led to some national grade inflation compared with results recorded in the previous year. The government has announced that the grading in 2021 will be in line with that of 2020. This means that student outcomes in England will not be disproportionately affected relative to 2020, nor relative to students in Wales where exams have been cancelled.
- Students will receive advance notice of some topic areas covered in GCSE to focus revision. This is expected to be published at the end of January.

These adjustments will be communicated to students, and we will continue to provide updates to students when we receive important information about their exams.

The term ahead

w/c 4 January	Additional student support sessions re-commence
22 January	Mock exam results published to students
2 February	Additional Year 11 parents evening for selected students
5 February	Sixth Form taster day for students
11 February	Sixth Form application deadline

15 – 21 February	Half term
Feb/March	Further mock exams in some options subjects
w/c 15 March	Maths and English mock exams
w/c 22 March	Maths and English mock exams continue
26 March	Final day of Spring Term

Please click [here](#) to view the Sixth Form prospectus

Support for students

Throughout the term we will continue to monitor and support students in all aspects of school life.

Pastoral and wellbeing support	Mrs Moore, Year 11 Manager remains the first point of contact for students. We prioritise the positive mental health and wellbeing of our student community, and we encourage students to come forward to speak to us about any concerns.
Academic support	<p>In addition to timetabled subject lessons we are running a programme of additional support for students identified through progress data provided by subject teachers. This programme has been in place since November for Year 11 students.</p> <p>There are three different groupings of support dependent on student need. These are; whole class subject support, a small group guided study session focusing on core study skills and finally small subject based groups.</p> <p>Lesson and revision materials for each subject are made available to students directly from their subject teachers and through accessing their subject classes on Showbie.</p>
Progression beyond Year 11	In November we hosted a virtual open event for Sixth Form. In addition, Mrs Tunstall, our independent careers advisor is assisting students to make informed choices for progression beyond Year 11, whether that be Sixth form or college/apprenticeships.

	All Year 11 students will have the opportunity to spend a day in Sixth Form in February experiencing different A level courses and life as a Sixth Form student.
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We are very much looking forward to supporting our Year 11 students in the new year. We understand that this can be a stressful time in normal circumstances, and that the disruption over the last 9 months has served to create some further uncertainty for students. However, we have full confidence that students will continue to work with focus and determination over the coming months, just as they have done so far this year.

Please do not hesitate to contact myself or Mrs Moore if you have any questions or concerns about the term ahead: njm@harrogategrammar.co.uk dfm@harrogategrammar.co.uk

We wish you all an enjoyable and relaxing festive season.

Yours Faithfully



Mr N Mason
Director of Upper School
Assistant Headteacher

