



HARROGATE
GRAMMAR SCHOOL
EXCELLENCE FOR ALL

Frequently Asked Questions

How does admissions work?

Please see our current admissions policy. This can be found [here](#).

How does HGS support Year 6/7 transition?

Our Pastoral team will go out and visit all the students who have got a place and talk to them about coming to HGS. The students will then spend 3 transition days with us before starting in the September. Transition days are a mixture of us getting to know the students and them getting to know HGS. We will do some testing (CATS) to help us ensure they are in the right groups for September. There will also be an information evening for parents as well to ensure you know what to expect.

How are students supported when they are at HGS?

Students will receive extensive support throughout their time at HGS. Each year group has its own Year Manager. This person is a non-teaching member of staff and is available all day, every day to support students and are contactable via email or phone, should you need to contact them. The Year Manager will take their year group in Year 7 through to Year 11, providing continuity of care. Each Year Manager at HGS is very experienced as well and suitably qualified. All Year Managers are trained first aiders and they have all recently completed Level 3 Compass Buzz Mental Health training.

Harrogate Grammar School has achieved the Carnegie Centre of Excellence for Mental Health Award at silver level. This award, led by Carnegie School of Education and Minds Ahead CIC, ensures schools are using evidence-based approaches, aligned to the latest professional guidelines surrounding mental health. Through its competency-based framework, Harrogate Grammar School has been able to use the structure of the award to evidence the way it has embraced leadership and strategy, support for staff and students as well as its work with parents, carers and external agencies. The award also acknowledges that the school has used the process to very good effect in developing mental health strategies, structures and practices. This includes the work with St Michaels



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Hospice is piloting the Just B emotional wellbeing service which we are now proud to say is entering its 6th year at HGS.

What is the school day?

Students follow a 6-period day, except for Wednesday, when it is 5 periods. Morning registration begins at 8.50am, with lessons starting at 9.00am. Lessons are 50/55 minutes long and we have a mid-morning break for 15 minutes and lunch is 45 minutes. The day finishes at 3.30pm.

What is the behaviour policy?

Positive, respectful, caring relationships and good self-regulation are at the heart of a safe and productive learning environment. They also underpin outstanding teaching and learning. Therefore, we help everyone in our community to work together to develop, maintain and sustain positive working relationships as well as supporting students and all members of our community to manage their emotions, take responsibility for what follows and to contribute to school and society in a way that matches the school's values. We have a positive, consistent and effective system of rewards and sanctions. The Positive Achievement System is designed to support our young people in achieving our expectations through recognition and reward when they are met. The most important part of this system is recognition and reward in lessons and around school. We recognise the standard we expect, let students know that we appreciate how well they are doing and use rewards to continue to develop positive relationships. The behaviours we value in school are for process and effort, not simply skill or talent, so it encourages and builds a sense of resilience and determination to improv. Students and parents can chart their progress through an iPad app. You can read our behaviour policy in full [here](#).

What is the schools' position on bullying?

In any school, bullying of some kind is possible between students. We have a Bullying and Harassment Policy, approved by the Governors, which makes the school's position clear:

“Every member of the community of Harrogate Grammar School has the right to learn and to realise his or her true potential in all aspects of school life free from humiliation,



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intimidation and abuse. The school does not tolerate bullying and all incidents are taken seriously. Sanctions could include exclusion from school.”

What are the catering arrangements?

There is lots of choice! Students can eat in the Hub and have a hot meal. The Lunch Box, in the Hall, serves sandwiches and snacks. In the summer we have Sustain, where students buy paninis and other food to enjoy outside. There are also some vending machines where food at break and lunch can be purchased. Students can also pre-order food. We are a cashless school so student don't need to bring dinner money with them. Students can also bring a packed lunch and eat this in the Hall. Year 7's have their own social area; the Quad.

How much homework is set?

This will depend on the subject but students should expect about 3 ½ hours a week in total. All Home Learning is set through an app. This app is also open to parents so they can see what Home Learning has been set.

What is the average class size?

Class sizes will vary depending on the subject but will be no more than 32.

What is the extra-curricular offer?

Students are encouraged to take part in a range of activities from sport, performing arts, languages etc. These take place at lunch and after school. We have high participation rates and have been very successful in a number of regional and national competitions. The school was recently placed in the top 20 nationally for sporting success.

To encourage participation, we have a Freshers Fair in the first few weeks of Year 7 and there is a comprehensive brochure available which explains the many opportunities on offer, including trips and visits.

Students can stay after to school to work in the library



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What is the iPad's for learning scheme?

We are extremely proud of our students' and teachers' innovative use of technology to enhance the teaching & learning experience all students have. The philosophy for implementing the 1-1 iPad scheme is:

- To ensure equality of access to the internet at school and at home
- To prepare students for working and living in a digital age
- To support self-led research and problem solving
- To improve the quality of feedback, home learning and collaboration
- To provide new and innovative ways for students to learn
- To ensure the safe use of mobile technology for learning

We use the iPad for many of our key systems and infrastructure. This includes direct communication via email, our student planner for recording home learning through Homework4, Classcharts which records the rewards and sanctions system and Showbie, where staff share rich resources and can provide immediate feedback. Along with all of these uses, teachers and students utilise the iPad for learning activities which provide multiple pathways to subject knowledge and understanding in new, creative, engaging and exciting ways.

Further information can be found [here](#).

What if my child has SEND?

As we strive for excellence for all, those students with 'additional needs' are fully supported through our Learning Support Faculty. This support comes from a qualified SENCO and a team of highly qualified specialist teachers and teaching and learning assistants (TLAs) whose experience and bespoke training enable them to deliver high quality intervention. We would ask that if you have specific questions about your child then please contact wisharte@hgs.rklt.co.uk

If you do not feel as though your question has been answered then please post it [here](#).