



HARROGATE
GRAMMAR SCHOOL
EXCELLENCE FOR ALL

10 September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers of all students in Key stage 4 (Years 10 and 11)

Key Stage 4 Welcome and Key Information

It is a pleasure to welcome Year 10 and 11 students back to school after the summer break. We are really proud of the way they committed to their learning during a challenging year 9 and 10, and are excited about what they can go on to achieve this year. The start of the new academic year presents an opportunity for students to set themselves personal targets and to establish a suitable strategy to ensure that they realise their ambitions.

Through this letter we hope to provide you with essential information about the arrangements for Years 10 and 11, and to address any queries that you may have.

Return to school

You will have received the school [September 2021 Opening Guide](#) which contains information about the practical arrangements that are in place within school to ensure the safety of all students. In addition to measures that are in place within school, it is important that students establish the routine of taking a lateral flow test twice per week (Monday and Thursday), and to inform the school of any positive test result through emailing HGSCovidresult@hgs.rkt.co.uk

Routines and Expectations

We have high expectations of all of our students. Full details of the routines and expectations can be found in the [parent handbook](#). We look for high levels of attendance throughout and will contact you if there is an unexplained absence. Students must wear their uniform correctly and with pride; shirts need to be tucked in and shoes not trainers or trainer styles need to be worn. We do not allow makeup and this includes fake eyelashes and false or painted nails. If students have these for an event or special occasion can you please ensure that they have been removed in readiness for school. Your support in this is very much appreciated.

KS4 mindset

At KS4, there is a greater emphasis on self guided learning and publicly assessed exams at the end of year 11. Students are encouraged throughout to be independent and reflective learners in order to secure the best possible outcomes. All our students are supported by our subject specialist teaching staff and all the teaching resources can be found in the students' Showbie classes. Similarly, all home learning tasks can be found in Homework 4. Students should expect to receive one piece of home learning per subject per week. As students' progress through KS4 we encourage them to continually review and revisit prior learning. This is in addition to any home learning set.

The start of the year provides an opportunity for students to reflect on the effectiveness of their learning. It is important that students are able to learn strategies that help to commit learning to long-term memory, and which allows them to apply knowledge in a purposeful way. As part of this, we will be focusing on explicit vocabulary instruction across all subjects. By teaching our students a greater understanding of the words they use they will build their understanding and knowledge of the subjects they study.

We have also developed our own mindset which will set students up for success. This mindset (I AM HGS) is framed around the key elements:

Intention, Application, Mindset, Habits, Growth, Service.

It is important that students commit to developing this positive mindset, and we will be working with students to build this mindset in preparation for their GCSE exams and their next steps after KS4.

Reading and Oracy

We are also very excited to be launching our oracy project this year across the school. With a rapidly changing jobs market it is hard to fully predict what skills our students will need for roles that may not even exist yet. However, feedback from industries is largely the same every year, they want candidates that are confident, capable and articulate speakers and this is something that we are passionate about teaching our students. As part of our drive to further develop oracy, we will be taking part in Votes for Schools. This is an award-winning platform that each week allows students to investigate and debate current affairs before casting a vote. As part of this work, we will be teaching the students how to structure a balanced and informed debate. We encourage you to support this by talking to your child about the weekly topic and engaging them in what their thoughts are as they prepare to cast their votes across the week.

Support and Help through KS4

Year 10 and 11 have dedicated Year Managers who should be the first point of contact for any issues students and parents may have.

Year 10 is Mrs Smithson smithsond@hgs.rklt.co.uk Tel: 01423 535213

Year 11 is Mrs Ellenthorpe ellenthorpem@hgs.rklt.co.uk Tel: 01423 535215

Year 10 and 11 students also have access to the JustB emotional support service. They should see their year manager in the first instance if they feel they may need this support. Mrs Ellenthorpe and Mrs Smithson are also running further support groups for our students.

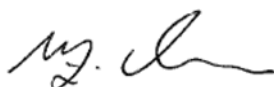
Key Dates for this Year

Date	Event	Yr 10	Yr 11
Tuesday 14 September, 6:30pm	Supporting success at KS4 – Virtual event, Live Q+A	✓	✓
Tuesday 21 September	GCSE PE information evening	✓	✓
Thursday 14 October	Big Picture Day	✓	✓
Tuesday 19 October 4-7pm	Year 11 Parent's Consultation evening	✗	✓
Friday 22 October to Sunday 24 October	KS4 London Design Trip	✓	✓
Monday 15 th November	Influenza vaccine	✓	✓
w/c 22 nd November	GCSE Drama exams	✗	✓
w/c 22 nd November	Mock speaking exams	✗	✓
w/c 29 th November and w/c 6 th December	Mock exams	✗	✓
Wednesday 24 th November	GCSE Extended Pathway parent's consultation evening	✓	✗
Thursday 9 th December	Christmas concert		

Tuesday 11 th January 4pm-7pm	Year 10 Parent Consultation evening	✓	✗
Friday 28 th January	Taster day in sixth form	✗	✓
Saturday 29 th January	Sixth Form open day	✗	✓
Wednesday 2 nd February	Year 11 Thackray Medical Museum trip	✗	✓
w/c Monday 28 February	GCSE Geography fieldwork trips	✗	✓
w/c 7 th March	GCSE mock speaking exams	✗	✓
w/c 14 th and 21 st March	Mocks exams – English/Maths	✗	✓
w/c 14 th march	GCSE drama exams	✗	✓
w/c 14 th March	GCSE Food and Nutrition controlled assessments	✗	✓
w/c 4 th April	GCSE Art/photo exams	✗	✓
w/c 4 th April	GCSE Speaking exams	✗	✓
Friday 6 th May	GCSE study leave begins	✗	✓
Thursday 9 th June	GCSE Art Exhibition	✓	✓
Friday 10 th June	Year 11 Prom	✗	✓
w/c 13 th June	GCSE Liverpool Art trip	✓	✗
w/c 13 and 20 June	Year 10 Summer CATS's	✓	✗
w/c 20 th June	Work Experience	✗	✓
Friday 24 th June	Sixth form induction	✗	✓
Monday 27 th June	Rewards trip	✓	✗
Tuesday 28 th June	Big Picture Day	✓	✗
Thursday 30 th June	Sports day	✓	✗

We look forward to working with you and your son/daughter in a way that best serves their interests and effectively shapes their future. Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you require any information throughout the year via 01423 531127 or mail@hgs.rklt.co.uk.

Yours sincerely



Mr N Mason
Assistant Headteacher, Director of Upper School