



5 September 2025

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. The start of the new academic year presents an opportunity for students to set themselves personal goals and to establish effective habits. Through this letter we hope to provide you with essential information about the arrangements for Year 10 and 11, and to address any queries that you may have.

## Key Dates

At the end of this letter are key dates for this academic year. You can also access the school calendar on our website by clicking [here](#).

## 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 expect high levels of attendance throughout the year and will contact you if there is an unexplained absence. We monitor attendance trends closely and will put supportive measures in place if necessary. Routine medical and dental appointments should be made outside school time where possible. The NHS have given [guidance](#) if you are unsure whether to send your child to school, please [click here](#) for instructions how to report any absence. Whilst our data is above the national average, we know that regular attendance makes a difference. One thing that does impact our attendance data is term time holidays, particularly around the ski season and in the summer term. We politely ask you to support the school by not taking your child out of school for holidays, unless in exceptional circumstance.

We continue to focus on our [Learner Habits](#), which are habits that learners need to exhibit to ensure they build a strong work ethic and are able to achieve the very best outcomes for themselves. Students will be awarded positive behaviour points on [Class Charts](#) if these habits are displayed and there are rewards for reaching milestones in the number of positive points. If students are not meeting expectations in the classroom or the wider school, students will receive a negative behaviour point. We will be monitoring these closely and making contact with you.

As part of our HGS values, we have high expectations of students being respectful to themselves, to others and to the environment. All students have signed a [Respect Pledge](#) at the start of the year, agreeing to follow respectful behaviours. There will also be assemblies and Big Picture lessons supporting students on how best to achieve this throughout the year.

Students are not allowed to use mobile phones in school. If students do so, the phones are confiscated and returned to students at the end of the school day. In the rare circumstances where a student repeats this action, we will make contact with you to arrange collection.

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Headteacher: Mr N Renton, Associate Headteacher: Mrs K Moat



Learning Trust Alliance Teacher Training Teaching School Hub

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## Uniform

Uniform is an important part of our school's identity and culture. It sends a clear message to everyone that our students feel pride in their school and reinforces who we are as a community. As a school we receive regular feedback from the public about how smart our student's uniform is and we take great pride in this.

The expectation is for uniform to be worn correctly throughout the school day and would ask parents to support in helping your child to meet these expectations.

**Shirts:** White shirt, worn fully tucked in and with the top button done up.

**Skirts:** Unmodified with HGS logo and waistband visible at all times.

**Ties:** The correct year group tie is to be worn and is to be tied to so that it is touching the waistband of the trousers/skirt.

**Blazers/Jumpers:** A school jumper is optional; the blazer must be worn unless the warm weather uniform email has been sent out on days that temperatures will remain high throughout the day.

**Socks:** Black socks with trousers, black tights need to be worn with a skirt and are not to be sheer.

**Shoes:** Black, flat shoes. No boots, canvas shoes or trainers, this includes branded sports shoes including (but not limited to) Nike, Adidas, Reebok, Converse, and Vans. If there is a medical reason that footwear needs to be different, please contact the school to make us aware and if you require any guidance on what acceptable options are.

**Coat:** Plain, no denim, leather, quilted shirts or hoodies including the HGS PE hoodie.

Makeup, fake tan, false eyelashes, nail varnish/gel/acrylic nails must not be worn for school and removal will be required.

**Jewellery/body piercings:** Students are allowed to wear one ring per hand, two studs per ear, and a plain watch. We do not permit any other jewellery or facial piercings. Students will be asked to remove the extra jewellery, and it will be confiscated, the students may collect it at the end of the day from reflection.

Please label all of your child's uniform including their coat to help us to ensure any lost property is returned to its rightful owner.

## Work Ethic and Home Learning

At KS4, there is a greater emphasis on self-guided learning in preparation for 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 Showbie. Similarly, all home learning tasks assigned to students will be available via their Arbor app on their iPads. Parents will also have access to this information via the [Parent Arbor app](#).

Frequency and duration	KS4 – Frequency	KS4 - Duration
English	2 per week	40 minutes per task
Maths	2 per week	
Science	1 per week per subject	
RS	1 per fortnight	
All GCSE options	1 per week	45 minutes per task
In addition, students should continually review and revisit prior learning.		

We will also be focusing on work ethic this year. We want to support and encourage students to develop resilience and a sound work ethic, enabling them to achieve in all areas of school life. This is particularly pertinent in KS4 and will help students take their next steps after Year 11.

### **Regular Reading and Regular Maths**

Students are expected to use Sparx Reader and Sparx Maths each week. We will send you a separate communication about this next week.

### **Support and Help Through KS4**

We welcome feedback and want to form an effective partnership between home and school. It is crucial, therefore, that we have open and honest communication. Each year group has an allocated year manager who should always be your first point of contact.

Year 10 is Mr Mason and Mrs Weston [hgsyear10support@hgs.rklt.co.uk](mailto:hgsyear10support@hgs.rklt.co.uk) Tel: 01423 531127

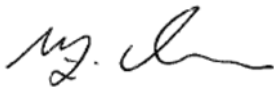
Year 11 is Mr Thurley [ThurleyA@hgs.rklt.co.uk](mailto:ThurleyA@hgs.rklt.co.uk) Tel: 01423 531127 ext: 7054

Year 10 and 11 students also have access to the Harrogate Cluster Services for emotional support. They should see their year manager in the first instance if they feel they may need this support.

We are also holding some information evenings for parents and carers to provide further information about how you can support your child over this academic year. Please see the key dates below for timings and how to book.

We look forward to working with you and your child 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](mailto:mail@hgs.rklt.co.uk)

Yours sincerely



**Mr N Mason**

Assistant Headteacher, Director of Upper School

## Key Dates for this Year

Date	Event	Y10	Y11
Thursday 4 September	Year 10 School Photos	✓	
Monday 15 September, 6pm	GCSE option subjects information evening For specific coursework subjects only – you will receive an invitation email	✓	X
Tuesday 16 September, 6.30pm	Year 11 Supporting success evening Please <a href="#">click here</a> to book a place	X	✓
Tuesday 23 September 6.30pm	Year 10 Supporting success evening Please <a href="#">click here</a> to book a place	✓	X
Wednesday 22 October	Sixth Form Open Evening	X	✓
Exact dates TBC	Mock speaking exams	X	✓
w/c 10 and 17 November	Mock exams	X	✓
w/c 24 November	Year 11 Mocks (Art, Design and PE)	X	✓
Tuesday 9 December	Year 11 Parent Consultation evening	X	✓
Tuesday 6 January	Year 10 Parent Consultation evening	✓	X
Monday 12 January	Taster Day in Sixth Form	X	✓
Saturday 17 January	Sixth Form Open Afternoon	X	✓
w/c 9 February	GCSE Food and Nutrition Assessments	X	✓
w/c 23 February and 2 March	Year 11 Mock exams – English/Maths/Science	X	✓
w/c 9 March	GCSE Geography fieldwork trips	✓	X
w/c 30 March	Easter revision sessions	X	✓
w/c 20 April	GCSE Art/Photography exams	X	✓
w/c 27 April	GCSE MFL speaking exams	X	✓
Friday 22 May	GCSE study leave begins	X	✓
w/c 8, and 15 June	Year 10 End of Year CATs	✓	X
Thursday 18 June	Sixth Form Induction	X	✓
Friday 19 June	Year 11 Prom	X	✓
Wednesday 1 July	Year 10 Sports Day	✓	X
Thursday 2 July	Year 10 End of Year trip	✓	X
School Term dates can be found here: <a href="#">Term Dates</a>			

	Virtual Event
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