



5 September 2025

Dear Parents/Carers of all students in Years 8 and 9

Years 8 and 9 Welcome and Key Information

It is a pleasure to welcome 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. This is an important year for all students, especially Year 9 who make their GCSE choices in the Spring Term.

Key Dates

Attached to 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 [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.

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.

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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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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

All home learning tasks assigned to students will be available via Arbor on their iPads. Parents will also have access to this information via the [Parent Arbor app](#).

Additional information regarding home learning can be found on page 12 of the [parent handbook](#).

Frequency and Duration of Home Learning

Year 8 and 9	Frequency	Duration – Year 8	Duration – Year 9
English	2 per week	25 minutes per task	30 minutes per task
Maths	2 per week		
Science	3 per fortnight (between 2 teachers)		
MFL	1 per week (per subject)		
Geography and History	1 per week (per subject)		
RS	1 per fortnight		
Art and Design	1 per fortnight (per subject)		
Music and Drama	1 per fortnight		

Throughout the year we will talk with students about the importance of work ethic. We are encouraging students to set themselves clear goals and to take pride in their work. We want students at HGS to work hard, and to push themselves out of their comfort zone. Home learning is a good opportunity to not only show commitment but also develop their understanding.

Regular Reading and Regular Maths

Reading is of great importance, and we ask that you support us by helping and encouraging your child to read for 30 minutes each day at home. All the research shows that this will not only support your child's education and development, but also their mental health and well-being.

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

iPads and Smartphones

In recent years, we have made changes to restrict the iPad so that it functions as an educational device. We encourage parents to establish sensible routines such as not allowing students to use devices after 9pm and making sure it is charged in a family area and not in their bedroom. Please make contact if you have concerns about your child misusing the iPad in school, additional restrictions can be added.

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. In recent years, there has been an increase in parents advocating for a smartphone-free childhood, using alternative, more limited devices until the age of 14. Links to these resources are available online. We encourage parents to set clear routines around smartphone use, like the iPad, particularly to support sleep and wellbeing.

Support and Help Through KS3

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 8 is Mrs Oliver OliverM@hgs.rklt.co.uk Tel: 01423 531127 ext: 7050

Year 9 is Mr Inglis InglisT@hgs.rklt.co.uk Tel: 01423 531127 ext: 7046

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

Yours sincerely



Mrs C Jackson
Director of Lower School

Key Dates for the 2025/26 Academic Year

Date	Event
Tuesday 23 September 2025	First PTA meeting 6.30pm
w/c 1 December 2025	Year 9 Outward Bound Trips
w/c 15 December 2025	Year 9 Options information to students and parents
Thursday 15 January 2026	Year 9 Options information evening 6pm
Tuesday 20 January 2026	Year 9 Consultation evening 4-7pm virtual event
Tuesday 17 March 2026	Year 8 Consultation Evening 4-8pm virtual event
w/c 1 and 8 June 2026	Years 7 to 9 Summer CATs
Wednesday 1 July 2026	Year 7/8 End of Year trip and Year 9 Sports Day
Thursday 2 July 2026	Year 7/8 Sports Day and Year 9 End of Year trip
School Term dates can be found here: Term Dates	