

Student Weekly News

w/c 5 January 2026

Dates for your diary

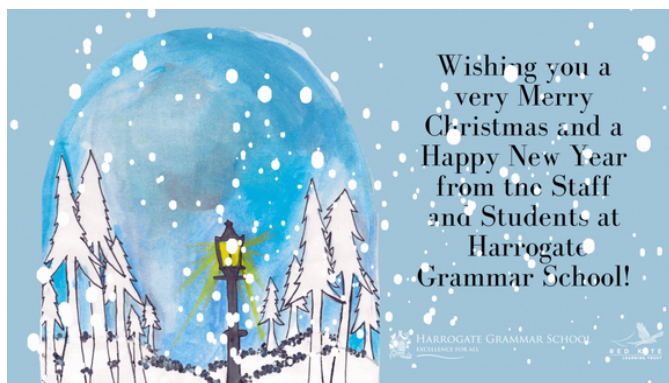
Date	Event / Activity	Year Group
w/c 5 & 12 Jan	Year 11 Mock Speaking exams	Year 11
	Year 13 Mock exams	Year 13
Tue 6 Jan	Year 10 Parents Evening (online)	Year 10
Thu 8 Jan	The Deep Trip (left population: 8GZP, 8JZW, 8AQI, 8RRP, 8LFH)	Year 8
Fri 9 Jan	The Deep Trip (right population: 8EXR, 8LMB, 8FXM, 8MGS, 8LZN)	
Mon 12 Jan	Year 11 Taster Day Sixth Form	Year 11
	Year 12 Home Study Day	Year 12
Tue 13 Jan	German Exchange Parent Meeting - 6pm, Forum	Year 10-12
Thu 15 Jan	Theatre Trip - Christmas Carol (Leeds)	Year 10/12
	Year 9 Options (Parent Information Evening), 6pm, Hall	Year 9
Sat 17 Jan	Sixth Form Open Afternoon 2-4pm	Year 11

Assemblies

Day	Time	Year	Location	Additional Information
Monday	8.50am	7	Hall	Register in the Hall from 8.40am
Tuesday	8.50am 9am	11 12	Hall Forum	Register in the Hall from 8.40am Register with Form Tutor
Wednesday	8.50am	10	Hall	Register in the Hall from 8.40am
Thursday	8.50am	9	Hall	Register in the Hall from 8.40am
Friday	8.50am 12.00	8 7	Hall Hall	Register in the Hall from 8.40am Register in the Hall P4

End of Term Message

Please [click here](#) to access the end of term message from Mr Renton.



Festive Stocking Fillers - recommended reads



[Click here](#) to access our recommended reads for the Christmas break.

Termly Curriculum Overviews

[Year 7, 8 and 9](#)

[Year 10 and 11](#)

[Year 12](#)

[Year 13](#)

Wellbeing and Mental Health Support

The school has strong links with local agencies and organisations which offer mental health support services. Click on [this link](#) to access more information.



REACH Out app

Our school does not tolerate bullying or harassment of any member of our community and all incidents are taken seriously. If you experience or witness this, please click the REACH Out button on your iPad.



Click on the image above to access our sports fixture list

**Cancelled Clubs w/c 5 Jan
Thursday - Year 7 Hockey**



PRE-ORDERS NOW AVAILABLE

**DELICIOUS SANDWICHES &
SANDWICH MEAL DEAL**

ORDER VIA THE QR CODE OPPOSITE
ORDER BY 5PM FOR SAME DAY
COLLECTION
COLLECT FROM THE HUB AT LUNCHTIME
SHOW YOUR CONFIRMATION EMAIL TO
COLLECT YOUR PRE-ORDER



Parent Communications this week

Whole year group communications that have been sent this week:

- [Year 9 Parents Evening Letter](#)
- [Year 12 End of Term Information](#)



HGS Social Media

To keep up to date with Life at HGS please follow our School accounts.



**Sixth Form
Accounts**



Spotlight: Festivals over the Festive Period



Christmas

What? Christmas is a Christian holy day that marks the birth of Jesus, who Christians believe to be the Son of God.

When? Christmas is celebrated each year on 25 December (7 January for Orthodox Christians).

How? The story of Jesus's birth (also known as the nativity) is often retold by children taking part in nativity plays. Christian church services at Christmas include carol singing. These are happy songs which tell the Christmas story. Some Christians start Christmas Day with a midnight communion service (also called a midnight mass). Christmas dinners are also an important part of the celebrations. Families and friends will share food together, eating traditional foods, such as turkey, mince pies and Christmas puddings.



Hanukkah

What? Hanukkah is the Jewish Festival of Lights. The word 'Hanukkah' means 'Dedication' in Hebrew. It celebrates a miracle that happened in Jerusalem over 2000 years ago.

When? Hanukkah (or Chanukah in Hebrew) is celebrated in November or December every year. It lasts for eight days. In 2025, Hanukkah began on the evening of Sunday 14 December.

How? Candles are lit from right to left during Hanukkah. On day one, the first candle is lit: on the second night Jews light two candles, and the pattern continues. By the eighth night, all eight candles are alight. They are lit from a separate candle, the Shamash or servant candle. It is also customary to play games at Hanukkah. The most common game uses a dreidel and is a popular way of helping children to remember the great miracle.



Ōmisoka

What? Ōmisoka, or New Year's Eve in Japan, marks one of the most spiritually significant days in the Japanese calendar.

When? Ōmisoka falls on 31 December.

How? Ōmisoka is a time for purification, closure, and quiet anticipation. It is a moment to reflect on the past year and prepare both home and heart for a fresh start.

Rooted in Buddhist and Shinto traditions, Ōmisoka reminds people to enter the new year with clarity - free from regrets, clutter, and negative emotions. The Japanese festival prepares for the new year by cleansing Shinto home shrines and Buddhist altars.



Pagan Festival

What? The Pagan celebration of Winter Solstice (also known as Yule) is one of the oldest celebrations in the world. Ancient people were hunters and spent most of their time outdoors. The seasons and weather played an important part in their lives, because of this people had a great reverence for, and even worshipped, the sun.

When? The Winter Solstice falls on the shortest day (21 December) and was celebrated in Britain long before the arrival of Christianity.

How? The Druids (Celtic priests) would cut the mistletoe that grew on the oak tree and give it a blessing. Oaks were seen as sacred and the winter fruit of the mistletoe was a symbol of life in the dark winter months. Many of these customs are still followed today. They have been incorporated into the Christian and secular celebrations of Christmas.

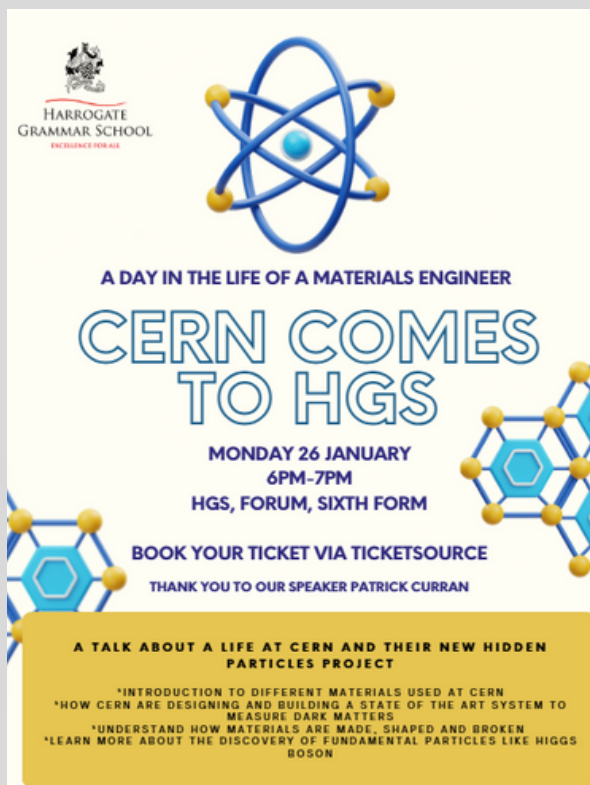


Tickets now available

via Arbor Shop



via [Ticketsource](#)



HGS Social Media

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Sixth Form
Accounts



Information for Year 11

Boys Changing Rooms - Important Information

We are delighted to advise that the new changing rooms are now finished.

With immediate effect, Year 11 should come to school in their **normal school uniform** when they have a PE lesson and bring in their PE kit to change into.

Your PE kit should only be worn during PE lessons and fixtures.

Year 11 Masterclasses

New English Drop In - After School on a Wednesday Classroom TBC

For students who have missed a lesson or need extra help on certain texts. You do not need to come along every week, you select the weeks based on what you may have missed.

January dates and planned drop in topics:

- Weds 7 Jan - Macbeth - Act 1 (characters & plot)
- Weds 14 Jan - Macbeth - Act 2&3 (plot)
- Weds 21 Jan - Macbeth - Act 4&5 (plot)
- Weds 28 Jan - Jekyll and Hyde - Chapters 1 to 3 (characters & plot)

Dates for your Diary

Saturday revision 10am to 1pm - more information to follow in January.

- Saturday 7 March
- Saturday 14 March
- Saturday 21 March
- Saturday 18 April
- Saturday 25 April
- Saturday 2 May
- Saturday 9 May

Sixth Form Information

Applications to HGS Sixth Form - now open

A copy of the Sixth Form prospectus can be [found here](#).

All Year 11 students should have received an email from applica on Thursday detailing their user name and temporary password to access the Sixth Form application form. Please select 'existing user' when logging on, your username is your HGS email address.

If you have any questions regarding logging on please contact HGSSixthForm@hgs.rklt.co.uk

Year 11 Sixth Form Taster Day Monday 12 January

Details of your timetable for the day will be shared with you on Friday 9 January.

Dress code for the day: students are expected to dress smartly and appropriately for learning, no jeans, trainers or hoodies.

What to bring: pencil case, notebook and fully charged iPad

Students will be able to purchase refreshments in G2 at break and lunch, this can be purchased via their cashless catering accounts.

We look forward to introducing you to Sixth Form.



SIXTH FORM OPEN AFTERNOON

**SATURDAY 17 JANUARY
2 - 4PM**

TOUR OUR SIXTH FORM BUILDING AND THE FACILITIES. PLEASE NOTE THIS EVENT IS RUN BY THE SIXTH FORM LEADERSHIP TEAM AND SUBJECT TEACHERS WILL NOT BE PRESENT.

BOOK YOUR PLACE VIA
WWW.TICKETSOURCE.CO.UK/HARROGATE-GRAMMAR-SCHOOL

Information for Sixth Form Students

End of Term Message

Congratulations on completing a very successful first term of the academic year. We are proud of the way that Year 12 students have settled into the Sixth Form and committed time and effort to their studies. Year 13s have been busy completing applications for university and apprenticeships, and preparations for mock exams have been very impressive. I hope that all students and families have a good break over the festive season, and that students return refreshed in the New Year.

Mr Twitchin, Director of Sixth Form



Year 12 End of Term Letter – December 2025

Please follow the link [here](#) to access important information for Year 12 students and parents

Progression and Careers

P&G Insight Day

Following on from the Progression session last week with Procter & Gamble, you can register for their Harrogate insight day which is taking place on Thursday 26th March 2026 here: [P&G Harrogate Insight Day | Procter & Gamble](#).

This day will give you a deeper insight into the incredible programme they run for school leavers and graduates, which includes work experience opportunities, internships and potential graduate roles after university. This is an excellent opportunity which is only being offered to school leavers in the Harrogate area however, spaces are limited so we strongly suggest you sign up quickly.

St Catharine's Outreach News: Humanities Residential

Exciting Opportunity for Year 12s Interested in Studying Arts, Humanities, or Social Sciences.

If you'd like to find out more about studying here, then our SCHOLAR (St Catharine's Humanities Outreach-Led Access Residential) stay might be for you!

The event is aimed at students in Year 12 who are considering studying a course within the arts or humanities at university. The Residential will provide successful applicants with the opportunity to explore a number of subjects in more depth, get a taste of life at Cambridge, meet current students and staff, and find out more about the application process and Cambridge as a city. We hope that students will get a taste of university life, and what studying an arts or humanities subject at Cambridge involves.

There are many other new opportunities live this week including some fantastic degree apprenticeships on the links below.

[Career and
Apprenticeship
Opportunities](#)

[Super-curricular](#)

[Work Experience](#)

[Career
Pathways](#)

Information for Sixth Form Students

Year 12 Mocks and External Exams

Students sitting exams for externally assessed units for applied courses need to check their exam timetable carefully. This is also available on Arbor. Students who have an exam in the afternoon may have study leave in the morning please ensure you check your timetables on Arbor.

Please note the following Year 12 mocks or BTEC external exams will take place during the Year 13 mock exam period. A list of Year 12 students taking part can be accessed via Arbor.

Week 1

Tuesday 6 January	Year 12 AS Maths mock - afternoon exam, study leave am
Wednesday 7 January	Year 12 BTEC Performing Arts Part B - morning exam Year 13 BTEC Sport Unit 2 - morning exam Year 12 Core Maths mock - mid-morning exam Year 12 & Year 13 BTEC Business Unit 2, Part A - afternoon exam, study leave am
Thursday 8 January	Year 12 & Year 13 BTEC Business Unit 2, Part B - morning exam Year 13 Digital Media Unit 1 - afternoon exam
Friday 9 January	Year 11 BTEC Sport mock - morning exam Year 13 BTEC Sport Unit 1 - morning exam

Week 2

Monday 12 January	Year 13 BTEC Business Unit 3 - morning exam
Tuesday 13 January	Year 13 BTEC Music Unit 2 - morning exam Year 12 Digital Media Unit 2 - afternoon exam, study leave am
Thursday 15 January	Year 12 Human Biology mock - morning exam Year 13 Digital Media Unit 6 - morning exam Year 13 BTEC Music unit 2 - morning exam
Friday 16 January	Year 13 BTEC Music Unit 2 - morning exam

Year 13 Mock and External Exams

Please be reminded of the following:

- Personal exam timetables can be viewed through Arbor in the examinations section
- During the exam period (Monday 5 January – Friday 16 January 2026) you will have home study leave and are only required to come into school for your exams
- Study areas in school will be open if you would prefer to come in to school to work, or if you need to wait for buses after an exam and need somewhere to study
- Those of you studying Design subjects will have fewer written exams and are strongly encouraged to come into school to use the studio space and equipment during the mock period

Exam expectations

- Arrive in good time. The bag room is S06 for the duration of the exam period
- All exams will be conducted under formal exam conditions, therefore there must be silence upon entering and leaving the exam room as well as during the exam.
- You must not take any type of device into the exam room, such as a mobile phone or smart watch
- Writing equipment must be in a clear, see-through pencil case or plastic bag and any water bottles must be clear/see through, without no writing on them and have any labels removed
- The Sixth Form dress code applies for all exams

Celebration Evening of Achievement Evening - Wednesday 17 December & End of Term assemblies

This week we have celebrated our award winners during the end of term assemblies and on Wednesday evening for our annual celebration of achievement evening.

We were delighted to welcome HGS Alumna Sarah Day back to the school on Wednesday evening. Sarah presented the awards to our prize winners. Thank you to Sarah Day and Head Students, Sophie Rees and Alex Smith for inspirational speeches on the evening.

We also celebrated subject prize winners during end of term assemblies this week.

Congratulations to all our prize winners.

