



Student Weekly News

w/c 23 February 2026

Dates for your diary

Date	Event / Activity	Year Group
Mon 23 Feb	Start of Spring 2 term	All years
wc 23 Feb & 2 Mar	Year 11 mock exams	Year 11
Tue 24 Feb	Year 7 Midsummer Night's Dream Trip, Leeds	Year 7
	Year 13 Parents Evening (in school)	Year 13
Wed 25 Feb	Year 10 Science Live	Year 10
Thu 26 Feb	Chinese New Year celebration - book tickets here	Year 7
	Year 7 Big Picture Day	Year 7
	Year 12 Theatre trip to Bingley Arts Centre	Year 12
Wed 4 March	A Level Drama practical exam	Year 13
	Year 13 Student Finance/Advisory Evening, Forum 6.30pm	Year 13
	Year 12/13 Othello Production	Year 12/13

Assemblies

Day	Time	Year	Location	Additional Information
Monday	8.50am	11	Hall	No Year 11 assembly due to mocks
Tuesday	8.50am	7	Hall	No Year 7 assembly due to mocks Assembly in Forum, then progression with Form Tutor Register with Form Tutor at 8.50am then progression assembly
	8.50am	13	Forum	
	9am	12	Forum	
Wednesday	8.50am	8	Hall	Register in the Forum from 8.40am
Thursday	8.50am	10	Hall	Register in the Hall from 8.40am
Friday	8.50am	9	Hall	Register in the Hall from 8.40am Register in the Forum P4
	12.00	7	Hall	

Spotlight - Religious Festivals

What is Ramadan?

Ramadan remembers the month the Qur'an (the Muslim holy book) was first revealed to the Prophet Muhammad. The actual night that the Qur'an was revealed is a night known as Lailat ul-Qadr ('The Night of Power'). During the month of Ramadan, Muslims won't eat or drink during the hours of daylight. This is called fasting. Children are not expected to fast until they reach puberty, usually around the age of 14. Fasting allows Muslims to devote themselves to their faith. It is thought to teach self-discipline and reminds them of the suffering of the poor.

When is Ramadan?

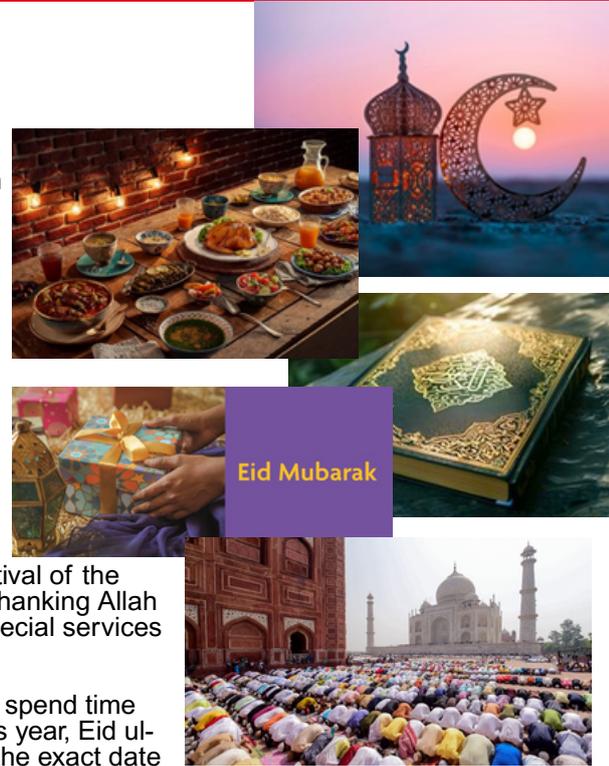
Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar. The exact dates of Ramadan change every year. This is because Islam uses a calendar based on the cycles of the Moon. To find out more, [click here](#).

In 2026 in the UK, Ramadan is expected to begin on Wednesday 18 February and will end on Thursday 19 March.

What is Eid ul-Fitr

The end of Ramadan is marked by a big celebration called 'Eid ul-Fitr' (the Festival of the Breaking of the Fast). Muslims are not only celebrating the end of fasting, but thanking Allah for the strength he gave them throughout the previous month. Mosques hold special services and a special meal is eaten during daytime (the first daytime meal for a month).

During Eid ul-Fitr Muslims dress in their finest clothes, give gifts to children and spend time with their friends and family. Muslims will also give money to charity at Eid. This year, Eid ul-Fitr is expected to be celebrated on Thursday 19 & Friday 20 March. However, the exact date is subject to the sighting of the moon.



What is Lent?

Lent is the period of six weeks (40 days not including Sundays) leading up to Easter, the most important festival in the Christian calendar. Lent starts on Ash Wednesday and the last week of Lent is called Holy Week.

What is the story of Lent?

Jesus went into the desert to fast and pray before beginning his work for God. Jesus was tempted several times by the devil, but was able to resist. Lent allows Christians to remember Jesus's fasting in the desert, it is a time of giving things up and a test of self-discipline. There are many foods that some Christians do not eat in Lent, such as meat and fish, fats, eggs, and milky foods. Some Christians just give up something they really enjoy, such as cakes or chocolate.



When is Lent?

In 2026, Lent begins on Wednesday 18 February and ends on Thursday 2 April. Lent is an old English word meaning 'lengthen'. Lent is observed in spring, when the days begin to get longer.

Buddhist Festival of Parinirvana

This marks the death of Buddha and his attainment of final Nirvana. This is a Mahayana Buddhist festival that marks the death of the Buddha, it is also known as Nirvana Day on the 15th February. Buddhists celebrate the death of the Buddha, because they believe that having attained Enlightenment he achieved freedom from physical existence and its sufferings.

The Buddha's death came when he was eighty years old, and had spent forty years teaching after his Enlightenment. He died in a state of meditation, and attained nirvana, a release from the cycle of death and rebirth. The Parinirvana Sutta describes the Buddha's last days, and passages from it are often read on Parinirvana Day.

Buddhists celebrate Parinirvana Day by meditating or by going to Buddhist temples or monasteries. As with other Buddhist festivals, celebrations vary throughout the world.



Hindu: Maha Shivaratri

Maha Shivaratri (also known as Shivaratri) is a Hindu festival dedicated to Shiva, who destroys the universe, one of the deities of the Hindu Trimurti. While most Hindu festivals are celebrated during the day, Maha Shivaratri is celebrated on February 15th during the night and day that come just before the new moon.

Tradition says that Shiva, like his symbol the new moon, appeared in order to save the world from darkness and ignorance, before the world entered complete darkness.

Devotees of Shiva observe a fast during Maha Shivaratri and stay up all night at a place of worship. Shiva is offered special food made from the fruits of the season, root vegetables, and coconuts, during ritual worship.



Spotlight - Chinese New Year

What is Chinese New Year?

Chinese New Year, also known as Spring Festival, is the most important cultural celebration in China and in Chinese communities across the rest of the world. It is a holiday period, so children don't go to school and many adults don't work. Before Chinese New Year, families traditionally do a large spring clean to symbolise the removal of bad luck and welcoming in good fortune for the year ahead. The festival lasts for 15 days and is a time to visit relatives, join together as a family, eat traditional food such as dumplings, and attend cultural events such as lion dances and lantern festivals.



When is Chinese New Year?

Each year is associated with an animal from the 12 of the Chinese Zodiac.

This new year will be the year of the horse, and it is an extra special celebration for those born in a "horse year" such as 2014, 2002, 1990, 1978, 1966, 1954, 1942 and 1930.

The exact date of Chinese New Year is determined by the timing of a new moon, meaning that it could take place any time between January 21 and February 20.

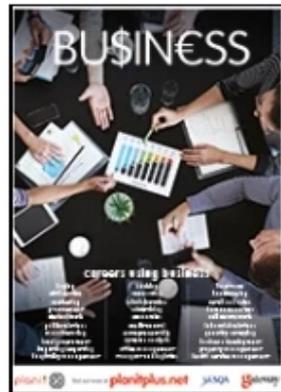
This year it falls on 17 February. At HGS we celebrate Chinese New Year with a Big Picture Day filled with Chinese-themed activities for Year 7, followed by an evening celebration with Chinese performances, games and food.



Careers Focus

Every month we will feature a subject or faculty and link to education pathways and careers/industries and the world of work.

This month our focus is Business.



Click on the following links for more information:

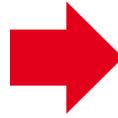
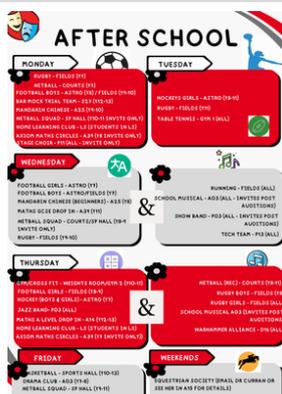
<p>Careerpilot - learn more about jobs, apprenticeships, vocational and degree courses in...</p>	<p>Busines</p>
<p>What can I do with a degree in...</p>	<p>Business</p>

Extra-curricular Activities

What extra-curricular clubs or activities are you planning to attend in Spring 2?

Use [this link](#) to access the Extra-Curricular webpage, from here you can access the Enrichment brochure and up to date timetables for Spring 2 Term.

Your parent/carer can book a place for you on these clubs/activities via Arbor Parent App within the Clubs section.



My Choices

Now you have decided which clubs and activities to attend and your parent/carer has booked your place, use the table below to record what extra-curricular clubs you have signed up for.

Club	Day	Time



Termly Curriculum Overviews

Click on the links opposite to find out what topics you will be studying this term in each subject.

[Year 7, 8 and 9](#)

[Year 10 and 11](#)

[Year 12](#)

[Year 13](#)



Click on the image above to access our sports fixture list

The following Sports Clubs have been cancelled w/c 26 Jan:
Wednesday - Year 7 football
Thursday - Year 8&9 football



PRE-ORDERS NOW AVAILABLE

DELICIOUS SANDWICHES & SANDWICH MEAL DEAL

ORDER VIA THE QR CODE OPPOSITE
ORDER BY 9AM FOR SAME DAY COLLECTION
COLLECT FROM THE HUB AT LUNCHTIME
SHOW YOUR CONFIRMATION EMAIL TO COLLECT YOUR PRE-ORDER



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.

Parent Communications this week

Whole year group communications that have been sent this week:

- Year 11 Reaching for Success Presentation slides



iPad checks

A reminder to all students that school iPads are checked by staff to make sure that they are being used appropriately. iPads are not for taking photos, playing games or sending any messages during lessons. Unless your teacher has asked you to do something on your iPad you should not be using it. When asked for your iPad you need to hand it to the teacher and provide them with your unlock code. If you know you have things on your iPad that should not be there, please delete them.

Remember, you all signed an acceptable use policy to say you will use your iPad appropriately at all times.



The appropriate use policy includes:

- I understand that if I have a loaned or scheme iPad that it must remain in its protective case at all times. If it needs to be removed from the case this must be done by a member of the IT services team and no-one else.
- I will only access the systems and my device with my own login and password, which I will keep secret.
- I will not access another person's device or storage area, or interfere with other people's work or files.
- I will use the iPad for school work and homework.
- I will not waste time in school using the iPad for non-learning activities.
- I will not behave in a way that can cause damage to iPads, ICT equipment or to IT installations.
- The messages I send will be polite and responsible.
- I will not give my home address or telephone number, or arrange to meet someone, unless my parent/carer or teacher has given permission.
- I will report any unpleasant material/messages sent to me.
- I will ensure that I bring the iPad to school each day and that it is fully charged at the beginning of the school day
- I understand that the school may check my iPad, files and monitor the internet sites I visit in school.
- I understand that use of the iPad is subject to the schools 'Acceptable Use of ICT' policy.
- I understand that Virtual Private Networks (VPNs) are not allowed in school.

Information for Year 11

Date	Event
Friday 20 February	<u>Leavers' Hoodie</u> deadline to place your order
wc 23 February, 2 & 9 March	Year 11 mock exams (see timetable below)
March	Coursing discussions will take place with the Sixth Form team - details of your allocated date and time will be issued to you near the time,
From 7 March	Saturday revision sessions 10am to 1pm (book via Arbor/Clubs)
Friday 8 May	<u>Leavers' Ball</u> deadline to book your place

Year 11 Mock Exam Timetable

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
WC 23 FEB	P1/2 English Lit Paper 1 P5/6 Maths	P1 History Paper 1 P3/4 class 113/Fr1 Listening & Reading	P1/2 Biology Paper 2	P3/4 English Lang Paper 2	P3/4 Maths
WC 2 MAR	P1/2 Chemistry Paper 2 P3/4 class 112/Fr1 Listening & Reading	P1/2 Physics Paper 2	No exams		
WC 9 MAR	P3/4 MFL listening & reading - German - Spanish - Class 111/Fr1	No exams			

Year 11 Mocks

The second set of Year 11 mock exams are due to commence from w/c 23 February post half term.

Please check your Arbor calendar so you know when your mock exams are taking place, timings and where you need to be. Remember, that if you have no exam, you will attend normal lessons.

We wish you all good luck.

Are you utilising all the resources available to you?

With less than 12 weeks to go until the first GCSE exam, are you aware of all the revision opportunities available to you? Alongside lessons, the following revision help is also available:

- Maths, English and Science masterclasses
- Drop in revision sessions (see timetable on the website below)
- Year 11 showbie folder
- Saturday Revision sessions commence from 9 March - don't forget to book via Arbor Parent app/Clubs
- Easter revision sessions - now live to book via Arbor Parent app/Trips
- Preparing for your exams booklet - week by week tasks to be complete - download your subjects from Year 11 Support page (red bar at the bottom of the page). Wondering where to start? This is a fantastic resource to help you organise and structure your revision.
- Blank revision timetable templates - available on the Year 11 support page, or you can collect a paper copy from main reception

Access more information here: [Year 11 Support website](#)

Final reminder - Year 11 Hoodies

Have you ordered your hoodie? Final opportunity to order your hoodie via Arbor/Trips to pay the £28 and then complete [this form](#).

Information for Year 10 - Focus on Work Experience

Year 10 Work Experience week takes place - Monday 6 July to Friday 10 July

Have you found your work placement for the summer term?

If you have please confirm your placement details on the ConnectEd platform. The deadline to confirm your placement is Friday 20 March (that's only 8 weeks away).

Need support, you can use these resources:
Student booklet in showbie, drop into the careers hub during lunchtime, use SkillsBuilder or the quizzes in the Big Picture showbie folder to help you identify possible areas of interest. Please remember the placement does not need to be your perfect job, this is about gaining a valuable insight into the world of work. A copy of the original letter to parents can be accessed [here](#). A copy of the NYBEP Employers Guide to Work experience can be [accessed here](#).



Information for Year 7 Big Picture Day - Thu 26 Feb

On Thursday 26 February, Year 7 will be taking part in a Big Picture Chinese New Year day. During this day, Year 7 will learn about and celebrate Chinese culture. During the day you will be taught in form groups, details of classrooms will be added to your Arbor calendar after half term.

The lessons will all have a different Chinese-themed focus including:

- Chinese History
- Kite Making
- Paper cutting
- Chinese Geography
- Religion in China
- Hanfu (costumes)
- Chinese Language
- Chinese Painting
- Kingfu
- Chinese Fact Fun

What to bring:

- pencil case with pens/pencils
- fully charged iPad
- no need to bring school exercise books on this day
- wear normal school uniform
- check Arbor calendar, if you are doing Kungfu, please bring trainers (full PE kit is not required)

House Update

Spring events taking place soon

We have some exciting House events planned for the Spring Term.



Event	When	Year Groups
Chess competition in A48 please come along if you would like to take part	Thursday lunchtime 1pm from 26 February for 4 weeks	Years 7 to 11
STEM competition	early March	Years 7, 8 & 9
House Football and Netball	w/c 23 March	Years 7 to 11



We also wanted to say a big thank you to everyone who took part in the Bizarre Bazaars just before Christmas. We raised an impressive £1000 for the school charity, which this year is 'Just B'.

Recommended Reads - Valentines



Recommended reads for Spring 1 - [please click on this link to access](#)

Wet Lunches

Year Group	Location	Year Group	Location
7	Classrooms A17 to A23	8	Hall
9	Gym 2 & A01	10	Mon - A10 to A13 & A25 Tue to Fri - Sports Hall
11	Atrium, A14 & LRC (silent study space)		

Information for Sixth Form Students

Year 13 Revision Sessions

Day	Time	Subject	Room
Monday	1 - 1.40pm	Physics	S29
Monday (Week A)	3.40 - 4.30pm	Geography	S26
Tuesday	1 - 1.40pm	Chemistry	S29
Tuesday	1 - 1.40pm	NEA support	S28
Wednesday (Week A)	3.30 - 4.30pm	Product Design	D05
Wednesday	1 - 1.40pm	Psychology	S29
Thursday	1 - 1.30pm	Religious Studies	S06
Thursday	1.05 - 1.40pm	Sociology	S04
Thursday (week A)	3.30 - 4.30pm	Maths/ Core Maths/ AS Maths / Further Maths	A14
Thursday (week B)	3.40 - 4.30pm	Geography	S26
Friday	3.30 - 4.30pm	Maths	S03
Everyday	1 - 1.40pm	Product Design	D05

Yr 13 Psychology revision and intervention sessions

As students approach the final weeks of school, we are offering an opportunity for them to engage in targeted revision support sessions in Psychology. The sessions will focus on key aspects of content that students have suggested they feel less confident in and will incorporate both course content and exam skills. Please click [here](#) for the letter sent this week from Mr Twitchin.

Business and Economics revision and intervention sessions

Please visit the link [here](#) for the full list of business and economics revision and intervention sessions.

Easter Revision sessions

The Easter revision timetable for Year 13 is now available via [this link](#).

Spaces are offered on a first come first served basis, and can be booked via the Arbor Parent App within Trips. Both face to face and online sessions are available to book.

New Psychology session added Tue 31 March AM in school

Information for Sixth Form Students

Year 13 Information Letter

Please follow the link [here](#) to access a letter detailing key information and support for Year 13 Students and Parent/Carers

Year 13 Parents' Consultation Evening - Tuesday 24 February

Please follow the link provided below to access a letter from Mr Twitchin regarding the Year 13 Parents' Consultation Evening taking place in school on Tuesday 24 February.

[Year 13 Parents' Consultation Letter](#)

Year 13 University Finance and Advisory Evening 2026 – 4 March

On Wednesday 4 March, Year 13 students and parents are invited to the University Finance and Advisory evening. The evening will take place at 6.30pm in the Forum. This will include a presentation from Jonathan Croall, University of Huddersfield.

Elevate Programme - Launching 24 February (lunch time in S07)

Are you thinking about applying to Oxbridge, medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine, competitive Russell Group courses, or high-level apprenticeships? We are launching The Elevate Programme to help you and your applications stand out.

Running on Monday lunchtimes from 24 February to May half term, the programme will help you build confidence in debate, tackle unfamiliar material, and develop the skills needed for competitive applications. You will also have the chance to connect with HGS alumni and gain insight into higher-level study. Please register your interest [here](#).

KS5 – Summer 2026 External Exam Timetables

Please [click here](#) to access a copy of the Summer Exam timetable.

Full Examinations information can be found in the Examinations section of the HGS website: [click here](#).

Year 13 Leavers Activities

Please find link [here](#) to Yr 13 leavers activities information. Dates and payment deadlines have been set out below.

Activity	Deadline for payment	Amount due	Order form
Leavers Hoodie	25 February	£29	Hoodie For 2026 for student completion
Yearbook	20 March	£33	Further email to follow
Leavers Ball	4 May	£56	N/A

Progression and Careers

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

[Career and Apprenticeship Opportunities](#)

[Work Experience](#)

[Super-curricular](#)

[Career Pathways](#)

PTA Quiz - tickets now available

HGS PTA Quiz Night Friday 20 March

Join us for a fun evening of quizzing, food and fundraising in support of HGS PTA.

📅 Friday 20 March
📍 HGS Main Hall

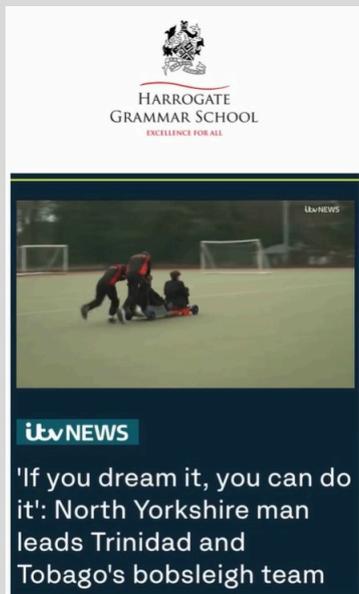
🕒 Doors open 7:00pm | Quiz starts 7:30pm

🎫 £15 per person (includes supper)
👥 Teams of up to 8

Tables are limited and will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

[Book your team here](#)

Good luck former student Axel Brown in the Winter Olympics



We are proud to be featured showing our support for former student, Axel Brown as he competes in the Winter Olympics. This is an incredible achievement and an inspiration to everyone.

We wish Axel the best of luck when he competes with the Trinidad and Tobago bobsleigh team.

Please click the image or link [here](#) [ITV News clip](#).



theaxelbrown Thanks so much! It really was a HUGE help!!



Oliver! Production

What a performance!

Well done to all the cast, crew and orchestra - you were all amazing.

Three sell out nights. You should be all extremely proud - we are so proud of you all.

We wish to congratulate the students and staff who made up the cast, orchestra, production and support teams on last night's production of Oliver.

It was thoroughly entertaining and professional, worthy of any theatre offering.

Regards

Two proud Year 7 grandparents

I wanted to email to say how blown away we were with the Oliver performance last night!

The talent, confidence and team work of the cast was incredible! Well done to everyone involved.

Year 7 parents



A message from Richard Sheriff & Ian Tucker Red Kite Learning Trust

Message from Richard Sheriff OBE



Last summer I shared the news with colleagues and our schools that I planned to retire from leading our Trust. It is almost 40 years since I started as a teacher and 25 years since I first had the privilege of leading a school. Over the last ten years I have had the opportunity to lead our Trust and work with a group of great schools, their staff teams and the inspiring young people they serve. We have come a long way in that time and, although there is much left to do, now seems a good time to step away and bring in new energy and ideas. When we appointed our first headteacher who knew me as their headteacher I knew my time had come!

I am delighted that the Trustees were able to appoint an outstanding person to replace me and it has been a pleasure working with Ian Tucker over the last few months preparing for him to join us.

Finally, I would like to thank all our parents, carers, young people and those in our wider communities for all the support and kindness I have received over the years. It really has been a huge privilege, and I look forward to watching the Red Kite Learning Trust flourish in the future.

Message from Ian Tucker, new CEO, RKLTL

It is a real honour to introduce myself to you as the incoming Chief Executive Officer of Red Kite Learning Trust. Over the past few months, I have had the privilege of working closely with Richard Sheriff and colleagues across the Trust, and in doing so I have gained a deep appreciation of the strong values, high expectations and moral purpose that underpin Red Kite's work. The Trust's commitment to nurturing ambition and delivering excellence for every child resonates strongly with my own beliefs about education. I am passionate about ensuring that all young people, regardless of background, are supported, challenged and inspired to achieve their very best, and that our schools remain places where children feel safe, valued and able to flourish. It is a privilege to follow Richard's outstanding leadership and to build on the strong foundations he and our schools have established. I am also delighted to be returning to my Yorkshire roots as I take up this role from the middle of February. I look forward to working in close partnership with our parents and carers, and to meeting many of you over the weeks and months ahead as we continue to strengthen and grow the Red Kite Learning Trust together.

