

Message from Mr Renton

I am writing to say a huge thank you for the way you represented yourselves, your peers and our school during the recent Ofsted inspection. Inspectors spoke with many of you around the site and in meetings, and you responded with honesty, maturity and confidence. You demonstrated our school values through your attitudes, your behaviour and the way you spoke about your learning and experiences. You should be incredibly proud of yourselves. An inspection can feel unsettling, but you remained calm, respectful and thoughtful throughout. By simply being yourselves, you showed what makes our school such a special place to learn and belong. You represented not only the school, but also yourselves and your year groups, exceptionally well. Thank you for your hard work every day, not just during the inspection. It does not go unnoticed, and we are very proud of you. Well done and thank you again.

Dates for your diary

Date	Event / Activity	Year Group
Saturday 18 April	Saturday Revision (session 4) - sign up via Arbor/Clubs	Year 11
Tuesday 21 April	Year 12 Career Pathway talks (period 1)	Year 12
Tuesday 21 April	Year 7 Parents Evening (online) - 4pm to 7pm	Year 7
Tuesday 21 April & Wednesday 22 April	GCSE Photography exams	Year 11
Wednesday 22 April	Charity Obstacle Fun Run - rearranged date	KS3 & KS4
Wednesday 22 April to Friday 24 April	Year 12 Food exams	Year 12
Wednesday 22 April to Friday 24 April	A Level Photography exam	Year 13
Thursday 23 April & Friday 24 April	GCSE Art exam	Year 11
Thursday 23 April	Battle of the Bands (7pm) - tickets can be purchased here	All years
Saturday 25 April	Saturday Revision (session 5) - sign up via Arbor/Clubs	Year 11
Saturday 25 April to Monday 27 April	DoffE Gold practice expedition	Year 12

Assemblies

Day	Time	Year	Location	Additional Information
Monday	8.50am	11	Hall	Register in Hall from 8.40am
Tuesday	8.50am 9am	7 12	Hall N/A	Year 7 - register in the Hall from 8.40am Year 12 - Register with Form at 8.50am the Career Pathway talks
Wednesday	8.50am	8	Hall	Register in Hall from 8.40am
Thursday	8.50am	10	Hall	Register in the Hall from 8.40am
Friday	8.50am Period 4	9 7	Hall Hall	Register in the Hall from 8.40am Register in the Hall P4

Spotlight: National DNA day

National DNA Day – Saturday 25 April 2026

National DNA Day is observed annually on the 25 April to recognise two major milestones in genetics:

- The publication of a paper on the DNA double helix in 1953 (written by James Watson, Francis Crick and Maurice Wilkins)
- The completion of the Human Genome Project in 2003

This week the Science Faculty will be running some DNA themed competitions for students in Years 7 to 9 including:

- Origami DNA
- Exploring DNA sequencing through bracelet making
- Challenging our knowledge on where and why DNA is important

Fascinating Facts About DNA

- 1 THE BLUEPRINT OF LIFE**

DNA stands for deoxyribonucleic acid. It contains the genetic instructions for the development and function of all living organisms. Every cell in your body contains a complete copy of your DNA.
- 2 INCREDIBLE LENGTH**

If you uncoiled all the DNA in your body and stretched it out, it would reach from the Earth to the Sun and back over 600 times! That's approximately 10 billion miles of DNA packed into your cells.
- 3 GENETIC SIMILARITY**

Humans share 99.9% of their DNA with each other. We also share about 60% of our DNA with bananas and 85% with mice, showing our common evolutionary origins.
- 4 DOUBLE HELIX DISCOVERY**

The double helix structure of DNA was discovered in 1953 by James Watson and Francis Crick, with crucial contributions from Rosalind Franklin. This discovery revolutionized our understanding of genetics and earned Watson and Crick the Nobel Prize.
- 5 REPLICATION SPEED**

DNA replicates at an astonishing rate of about 1,000 nucleotides per second. Despite this speed, the error rate is incredibly low—only about one mistake per billion nucleotides copied.
- 6 STORAGE CAPACITY**

One gram of DNA can store 215 petabytes of data—that's equivalent to 215 million gigabytes! Scientists are exploring DNA as a future data storage solution because of its incredible density and longevity.

Year 10 Biology Competition

Online Biology Competition - Open to students in Year 10

We are delighted to announce that HGS will be taking part in this year's UKBC Biology Challenge.

If you are in Year 10 and would like to enter this challenge, please email Dr Stafford by Monday 20 April.

The competition will consist of 2 x 25 minute quizzes which you complete on your iPad during two of the four times detailed below:

- Monday 27 April 3.30pm to 3.55pm
- Wednesday 29 April 2.40pm to 3.05pm
- Thursday 30 April 3.30pm to 3.55pm
- Wednesday 6 May 2.40pm to 3.05pm

This is a great way to test your love of Biology. The challenge is open to students studying Triple and Combined Science.

Interested to find out more and to enter – email Dr Stafford by Monday 20 April



 **UKBC**

Competition dates:
27th April to 11th May 2026

Biology Challenge

Join over 40,000 students worldwide in this year's online competition and stimulate your curiosity for the natural world.

Open to all students in:
Y9/Y10 in England and Wales
Y10/Y11 in Northern Ireland
S2/S3 in Scotland, and equivalent year groups worldwide.

Students are rewarded with e-certificates

Free BioNet membership of the Royal Society of Biology for participants aged 14-19



Further details can be found at:
ukbiologycompetitions.org



**Biology
Challenge**

United Kingdom Biology Competitions. Registered Charity No. 1191037

Enrichment - Summer Term after school sports clubs timetable now live

We are delighted to advise that after school sports clubs for the Summer Term are now available to book via Arbor Parent App/Clubs.

Details of the clubs available can be found opposite or via [this link](#).

What clubs will you attend during the Summer Term?

Day	Time	Year Group	Activity	Location
Monday	3.40pm to 4.45pm	8, 9 & 10	Netball Squad (invite only)	Sports Hall/netball courts
		8, 9 & 10	Cricket	Boys: Harrogate Cricket Club Girls: Astro
		7	Rounders	Fields
Tuesday	3.40pm to 4.45pm	8 & 9	Rounders	Fields
Wednesday	2.45pm to 4pm	7	Cricket	Boys: Harrogate Cricket Club Girls: Astro
		8, 9 & 10	Volleyball	Courts
		All years	Tennis	Tennis courts
		All years	Running Club	Fields
Thursday	3.40pm to 5pm	All years	Athletics	Fields/Astro/Cym 1
			Tennis Squad (invite only)	Tennis courts
Friday	3.40pm to 5pm	11, 12 & 15	Basketball	Sports Hall



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

LUNCHTIME

MONDAY

- BOYS' CHOIR - P11 (ALL)
- JUNIOR ORCHESTRA - P03 (Y1-1)
- MANDARIN CHINESE - A25 (Y1-10)
- SENIOR STEM CLUB - A15 (Y10-12)
- TALK CLUB (DROP IN) - NEXT TO L5 (Y1-9)

TUESDAY

- DUNGEONS & DRAGONS CLUB - A40 (ALL)
- JUNIOR CHOIR - P11 (Y1-10)
- MINICRAFT CLUB - A14 (Y8)
- SPARX HOMEWORK CLUB - A13 (Y1-10)

WEDNESDAY

- BIOLOGY A LEVEL DROP IN - S22 (Y13)
- CREATIVE WRITING - A51 (S2-3) A49 (S2-4)
- MANDARIN CHINESE (BEGINNERS) - A25 (Y8)
- MINICRAFT CLUB (MEEK B ONLY) - A14 (Y9)
- SAKOPHONY - P10 (ALL GRADE 2 UPWARD)
- SCIENCE CLUB - A10 (Y7)
- STRING ENSEMBLE - P03 (ALL)

THURSDAY

- CHESS CLUB - A48 (ALL)
- ICE CREAM - P08 (Y1-10)
- GCSE DRAMA CATCH UP - A03 (Y10-11)
- GCSE MUSIC CATCH UP - P13 (Y10-11)
- MINICRAFT CLUB - A14 (Y1)
- SONG WRITING CLUB - P11 (Y1-10)
- WARHAMMER ALLIANCE - D16 (ALL)

FRIDAY LUNCHTIME

- MINICRAFT CLUB - A14 (Y1)

SIGN UP VIA ARBOR PARENT APP FOR LUNCHTIME & AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

AFTER SCHOOL

MONDAY

- COOKING CLUB - D03 (Y1-10)
- CRICKET (BOYS) - HARROGATE CC - (Y9-10)
- CRICKET (GIRLS) - ASTRO - (Y1-10)
- ASTON MATHS CIRCLES - A31 (Y9 INVITE ONLY)
- MANDARIN CHINESE - A25 (Y9-10)
- NETBALL SQUAD - 2P HALL (Y8-10 INVITE ONLY)
- HOME LEARNING CLUB - L5 (STUDENTS IN L5)
- ROUNDERS - FIELDS (Y7)
- STAGE CHOIR - P11 (ALL - INVITE ONLY)

TUESDAY

- ROUNDERS - FIELDS (Y8-10)

WEDNESDAY

- CRICKET (BOYS) - HARROGATE CC (Y9)
- CRICKET (GIRLS) - ASTRO (Y9)
- MANDARIN CHINESE (BEGINNERS) - A25 (Y8)
- MATHS GCSE DROP IN - A31 (Y11)
- RUNNING - FIELDS (ALL)
- TECH TEAM - P13 (ALL)
- TENNIS - TENNIS COURT (ALL)
- VOLLEYBALL - COURTS (Y8-10)

THURSDAY

- ATHLETICS - FIELDS (ALL)
- JAZZ BAND - P03 (ALL)
- MATHS A LEVEL DROP IN - A14 (Y12-13)
- WARHAMMER ALLIANCE - D16 (ALL)
- HOME LEARNING CLUB - L5 (STUDENTS IN L5)
- TEAM TENNIS - TENNIS COTE (ALL INVITE ONLY)
- ASTON MATHS CIRCLES - A31 (Y9 INVITE ONLY)

FRIDAY

- BASKETBALL - SPORTS HALL (Y10-13)
- SCHOOL OF ROCK - P10 (ALL)

WEEKENDS

- EQUESTRIAN SOCIETY (EMAIL DA CURRAN OR SEE HER IN A15 FOR DETAILS)

Sparx Science Drop Ins - Years 7, 8 and 9 - Wednesday Lunchtime - A33

Not sure how to complete your Sparx Science homework or need a little help with a one or two questions. Please drop into the Sparx Science drop in session which takes place every Wednesday lunchtime in A33.

Termly Curriculum Overviews What am I studying this term?

Click on the links below 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

PRE-ORDERS NOW AVAILABLE

DELICIOUS SANDWICHES & SANDWICH MEAL DEAL

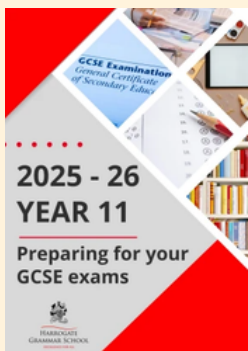
ORDER VIA THIS LINK

ORDER BY 5AM FOR SAME DAY COLLECTION
COLLECT FROM THE HUB AT LUNCHTIME
SHOW YOUR CONFIRMATION EMAIL TO COLLECT YOUR PRE-ORDER

Information for Year 11

Date	Event
Ongoing	Drop-in revision sessions, masterclasses and interventions continue - click this link to access further information. Showbie code: BJWKR
w/c 20 and 27 April	GCSE MFL speaking tests - check Arbor for your test date/time
Friday 8 May	Leavers' Ball deadline to book your place

Year 11 Preparing for your GCSE Exams Booklet



Please click [on this link](#) to access the GCSE Exams booklet to access revision tips, blank revision templates, a bank of must do, should do and could do weekly activities for each subject. Download subject content by clicking on the red bar at the bottom of [this page](#).



Saturday Revision

YEAR 11 SATURDAY REVISION SESSIONS

BOOK YOUR PLACE VIA ARBOR/CLUBS SECTION



DATES:

18 APRIL • 25 APRIL
2 MAY • 9 MAY

****NEW Saturday Biology Revision Sessions now available to book via Arbor/Clubs****

BIOLOGY

Saturday Revision - Year 11

- 18 April - Why we eat? (human digestive system, enzymes, metabolism)
- 25 April - The meningitis outbreak (communicable diseases, human defence system, vaccination)
- 2 May - For One Day Only: 'The singing chloroplast' - (plant tissues, organs/systems, photosynthesis)
- 9 May - The beginning (new life) - (cell specialisation/differentiation, cell division, sexual reproduction)

Combined
10am - 11am

Triple
11am - noon

Places available on a first come first served basis
Book now via the Arbor Parent app (Clubs section)

Information for Sixth Form Students



The Sixth Form
at Harrogate Grammar School
Excellence For All

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	P1	Maths	S08
Tuesday	P1	Psychology	S34
Tuesday	P1	Economics	S36
Tuesday	P1	Geography	S37
Tuesday (Week A)	1 - 1.40pm	History - Tudors	S28
Tuesday (Week B)	1 - 1.40pm	History - French Revolution	S28
Wednesday	1 - 1.40pm	Psychology	S29
Wednesday	1 - 1.30pm	Business Studies	S26
Wednesday (Week A)	3.30 - 4.30pm	Product Design	D05
Thursday	1 - 1.30pm	Religious Studies	S06
Thursday	1.05 - 1.40pm	Sociology	S04
Thursday	3.30 - 4.30pm	Psychology	S29
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

Information for Sixth Form Students

Year 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 more information.

Business and Economics revision and intervention sessions

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

KS5 – Summer 2025 External Exam Timetables

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

Please note there are two contingency afternoons and a contingency day. All students taking A Level examination must plan to be available on these dates in case of any disruption. Where a student has a clash, these will be resolved through an individual timetable communicated nearer the time. Full Examinations information can be found in the Examinations section of the HGS website: [click here](#).

Study and Revision tips

Key practical steps that you can take to give yourself the best possible chance of success include:

- Achieving 100% attendance and punctuality until 8 May
- Attending publicised revision sessions in each subject
- Seek advice from your teachers
- Committing to a minimum of 5 hours of independent work and revision outside of the classroom, per subject, per week. Use the structured tasks and guidance on Showbie to focus your revision
- Make use of the Study Centre – open at 8am every day, and closes at 5pm every day
- Look after yourself. Make sure you get enough sleep; eat healthily; get fresh air and exercise; and balance relaxation with your focused academic work

Accepting University Offers

Deadline for accepting offers:
All offers received by 31st March = 6th May 2026
All offers received by 13th May = 3rd June 2026

Ahead of these dates we strongly recommend that you wait and consider your decision carefully, there is no rush.

You will be selecting 2 choices out of the offers you have received.

Firm choice: The university that you most want to attend

Insurance choice: A university that you would be happy to attend if you do not gain the grades for your 'firm choice'. Typically, your 'insurance choice' should have lower grade requirements than your firm.

When making your decision it is important to consider all the following:

1. Is the course content right for you? Look at the type of assessment and the specific modules
2. Is the university and the city the right place for you to live for at least 3 years?
3. Are the grades achievable, for a firm choice and for an insurance choice?

Only after careful consideration of the above, should you commit to making your choices.

Life @ HGS



Golf Success for Mila in Year 9

Congratulations to Mila in Year 9 who represented England in the European Junior Golf tournament over the Easter break in an extremely close competition. We wish Mila the best of luck in the Scottish ladies amateur taking place this weekend in Troon where she will be playing as part of the England squad.



Ski Trip to Les Deux-Alpes

Some glorious sunny weather for the HGS ski trip 2026 to Les Deux-Alpes.

The students from Years 9 and 10 had an amazing time, with the beginners making it to the top of the mountain on the final day.

Thank you to all the staff who organised and accompanied the trip.



HARROGATE GRAMMAR SCHOOL
PRESENTS

BATTLE OF THE BANDS

TICKETS

THURSDAY 23RD APRIL 2026

6:30 - 8:30PM THE FORUM




HARROGATE GRAMMAR SCHOOL
EXCELLENCE FOR ALL

PTA USED UNIFORM SALE

Date: Saturday 25 April 2026
Time: 10 am - 12 noon
Location: Main school Hub

www.harrogategrammar.co.uk

We are now taking donations of good quality, clean used uniform for the forthcoming PTA sale. Please drop off at main reception.

We are looking for: blazers, ties, branded trousers/skirts, PE kit.

Thank you for your support.