



The Sixth Form

at Harrogate Grammar School

Excellence For All



8 September 2026

To Parents/Carers of all students in Year 13

Year 13 Welcome and Key Information

We are looking forward to welcoming Year 13 students back to school on Thursday. Students should be seated in the Forum at 8.50am for a morning assembly, and subject lessons will commence from period 2.

This letter provides essential information about the arrangements for Year 13.

Year 13 Welcome Evening

We are holding a Welcome Evening for Year 13 parents and carers on Wednesday 16 September at 6.30pm in the Forum. This event, hosted by the Sixth Form Team, will outline the key details for parents/carers to best to support a Year 13 student both academically and in making important decisions about their future beyond school.

Sixth Form mindset

Throughout Year 12 we have worked with students to develop the VI HGS mindset, framed around 5 elements: Vision, Impact, Habits, Growth, Service. The start of Year 13 provides an opportunity for students to reflect on their effectiveness as learners, and to dedicate themselves to becoming the best that they can be.

In this important year, it is crucial that students commit to a minimum of 5 hours of independent study per subject, per week. Students should focus their study time on activities that help to commit learning to long-term memory, and which allow them to apply knowledge in a purposeful way. We support this in lessons and home learning, and through a structured programme of study tasks in each subject area, which are accessed via the Year 13 Study class on Showbie.

Progression and UCAS

Throughout Year 12, students engaged in a range of activities to help them to develop a vision for their future beyond the Sixth Form. The first term of Year 13 is an important period in applying for university courses and apprenticeships. Students can apply for both of these progression routes simultaneously, and we encourage them to consider all options open to them. Support is provided by their form tutor and the Sixth Form Team within school.

Further information and useful links for students and parents can be found on Showbie, [Unifrog](#), and the [progression and careers](#) section of the school website.

Students who apply to university will do so through an online UCAS process, overseen by the Sixth Form Team. Time in the summer term was dedicated to this, and students should have completed a first draft of their personal statement and will be in the process of researching courses.

It is crucial that students make appropriate course choices in line with their academic progress and Teacher Estimated Grades, and which match their personal preferences. The following steps will be taken to support this process:

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Headteacher: Mr N Renton, Director of Sixth Form: Mr B Twitchin



Learning Trust Alliance Teacher Training Teaching School Hub

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- Students will receive their UCAS predicted grades on Monday 14 September. These grades are included on university applications, and they represent aspirational grades which teachers believe a student has a realistic chance of being able to achieve.
- Weekly Progression sessions with form tutors during period 4 every Tuesday provide students with opportunities to explore and discuss their options.
- A personal statement clinic session will be held weekly on a Thursday lunchtime for students to ask questions and seek advice.
- Support is available in school for students to discuss applications on a one-to-one basis with a member of staff. Students can speak to their Form Tutor, or to one of the Sixth Form Team. In addition, our independent Careers Adviser, Mrs Mitchell will be available to meet Sixth Form students by appointment for careers advice.

Dates for the submission of applications by the students to the school:

Conservatoire, Oxbridge, Medics, Dentists, Vets	30 September
Russell Group Universities	16 October
All other applications	13 November

Please be aware that numerous checks need to take place and an application can take up to three weeks to process in school, so the personal statement should be written as soon as possible. The dates are different due to earlier deadlines for Oxbridge, Medical and other comparable courses.

Sixth Form Standards and dress code

We set high standards in the Sixth Form, and these expectations have been reiterated to students at the start of term. Full details of the routines and expectations can be found in the [Sixth Form Handbook](#). This includes a reminder that we insist on high standards of appearance and students are also issued with an ID badge and lanyard. This must be visibly worn at all times to help safeguard all members of our community.

There are some minor alterations to the [Sixth Form dress code](#) for this next academic year to maintain smart professional standards in line with the modern workplace, and to ensure clarity and equality for all students regardless of gender. Most notably, all students are expected to wear a smart shirt or blouse with smart trousers or a skirt, but there is no requirement for students to wear a jacket / blazer, and boys are not expected to wear a tie. If students do not adhere to our dress code they will first be spoken to by a member of the Sixth Form Team. If students persistently fail to meet our expectations, then parents/carers will be contacted.

Attendance and timetables

High levels of attendance in school and in lessons has a direct impact on positive academic outcomes in Year 13. We expect high levels of attendance throughout the academic year, and we will contact you if there is an unexplained absence. We monitor attendance trends closely and will put supportive measures in place if attendance falls below 97%. Please call Mrs Reed (01423 535236) or email reedt@hgs.rklt.co.uk before 10am in the case of illness so that staff can be informed. Routine medical and dental appointments should be made outside school time.

The privilege system for Year 13 students provides them with greater flexibility and ownership over their study time. Students must arrive in school in good time for their first lesson or study period of the day and can leave after their final lesson or study period of the day.

Student attendance and work completion will continue to be monitored closely to ensure expectations are met. Where our monitoring shows that students are struggling to create a positive routine or to meet the expectations, the privilege will be removed and a daily support session 8.50-9.00am will be added to their timetable for a defined period of time to help them to reset and establish positive study habits.

Sixth Form Bursary

Students may apply for a bursary which aims to help and support students who face the greatest barriers to learning. Please note that students who received bursary payments last year must reapply for the new academic year. To find out if your son/daughter might be eligible, and how to apply, please consult the [school website](#) or contact Mrs Reed at Sixth Form Reception via reedt@hgs.rklt.co.uk.

Key dates for this year

Date	Event
Thursday 10 September	Start of term
Wednesday 16 September	Year 13 Welcome Evening
Tuesday 10 November	Parent Consultation Evening, 4pm (online)
Monday 4 January to Friday 15 January	Internal 'mock' exams
Tuesday 23 February	Parent Consultation Evening, 4pm (in school)
Wednesday 10 March	Student Finance / Advisory Evening
Friday 7 May	Leavers Assembly and Study Leave Commences
Monday 10 May	A Level Exams Commence (tbc)

We are looking forward to working with all of our Year 13 students throughout this busy and, hopefully, productive year. Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you require any information throughout the year via 01423 535235 or HGSsixthform@hgs.rklt.co.uk

Yours sincerely



Mr B Twitchin
Director of Sixth Form