



HARROGATE
GRAMMAR SCHOOL
EXCELLENCE FOR ALL

MAIN SCHOOL PROSPECTUS



EXCELLENCE FOR ALL



Welcome

I am delighted to welcome you to Harrogate Grammar School where we focus on helping each student become the best they can be. We do this by providing a positive, inclusive environment in which young people find and develop their strengths. Simply put, our core purpose is to provide 'excellence for all'.

Our school values help us to deliver 'excellence for all' based on a culture of respect, excellence, adventure, commitment and honesty. All members of our school community live out these values daily, and this makes our school a very special place in which to learn. Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of each child is critical to us and it is a shared responsibility. Our approach is child-centred, and we always act in the best interest of the child.

We are committed to meeting the needs of every child through an engaging curriculum that is both broad and balanced throughout the key stages. Our highly professional body of colleagues are experts in their fields and are dedicated to delivering the very best teaching and learning experience for our students.

Students explore their strengths through numerous clubs, sports, trips, and enrichment activities including music lessons, the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme, charity fundraising, productions, art exhibitions, debating and much more. There are many opportunities for students to learn how to lead such as through Student Council, Senate, Student Leaders and as Head Students. Students enjoy the diversity of our wider curriculum.

Our drive is to support every young person by promoting an atmosphere of kindness and mutual respect. Through expert teaching and through a culture of commitment, students make progress significantly above average in both GCSE, BTEC and A Levels. Our impressive outcomes, making us one of the highest performing large state comprehensive schools in the country, are the result of our culture of excellence, the dedication of our colleagues, the commitment of our students and the support of families.



A strong and effective partnership with parents underpins the work we do, and we look forward to working with you.

Our iPad for Learning scheme has been in place since 2012. This innovation creates unique opportunities for students to engage with their learning both within and outside of the classroom.

We are proud to be part of the Red Kite Learning Trust, initially formed with local schools and now involving 16 schools. We work closely with other partners, such as the Maths Hub, Teaching School Hub, Red Kite Alliance, Professional Teaching Institute and the Ogden Trust, locally and nationally, to support the best possible outcomes for pupils.

We want all our students to enjoy school and become kind, healthy, knowledgeable and productive individuals who go on and make a profound contribution to society. We are very proud of the progress students make with us, from whatever their starting point.

Neil Renton
Headteacher

Our Core Purpose

Our core purpose is to provide 'excellence for all' and we achieve this through the five REACH values that we embody, role model and teach: Respect, Excellence, Adventure, Commitment and Honesty. In practical terms, we have three pillars of focus in our school – a culture of respectful relationships, an aspirational and inclusive curriculum and expert teaching. As a result of our work across these three pillars and our focus on values, we achieve not only our excellent academic outcomes, but a broader set of outcomes in terms of kind, healthy, ambitious, knowledgeable, curious, enterprising, resilient, productive, responsible and reflective young people as they move on from our school community.

Our mission as a Trust is to nurture ambition, deliver excellence and enrich children's lives.



RESPECT

Respect yourself, others and our environment

EXCELLENCE

Be the best you can be

ADVENTURE

Challenge yourself and keep going

COMMITMENT

Participate, prepare and be punctual

HONESTY

Ask for help, act on advice and take responsibility

Curriculum

An inspirational and inclusive curriculum provides excellence for all, offering experiences which help to develop character.

Our curriculum is absolutely central to achieving success. If students can access courses which are suitable for them, then motivation, enjoyment and achievement are certain to improve. The curriculum equips our students with the qualifications and skills needed for life in the 21st century.

OUR INTENTIONS

We aim to provide all our students with exciting opportunities which build confidence, develop a range of skills and promote academic excellence and a love of learning. We offer a broad range of courses at all levels, preparing students for further education and future careers.

We also value learning beyond that which is recognised within the National Curriculum and seek to provide a broad and balanced curriculum which offers our students the opportunity for wider enrichment. We aim to develop confident young people with enquiring minds and a range of attributes that prepare them to be responsible citizens throughout their lives.



DELIVERING OUR CURRICULUM

There is a strong focus on the core subjects; English, Maths and Science, which we believe are the pillars that support understanding, skills and success elsewhere in the curriculum. Languages and Humanities are also important, with the majority of students entering Year 7 studying two languages. This core curriculum is supplemented and balanced by provision in the arts, technology and sport.

The creative subjects continue to thrive. Having experienced creative and practical subjects throughout Key Stage 3, students can make genuine choices as they enter Year 10, for their GCSE programmes of study.

Art, business, computing, design, creative iMedia, drama, food and nutrition, music, photography, PE and sociology are popular choices. We also recently introduced new level 2 courses in sport and hospitality, and catering.

Whilst seeking to provide an exceptional education for our students, our curriculum has at its core the fundamental British values of democracy, rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. In order to actively promote these values, we expect all colleagues, students and visitors to challenge opinions or behaviours seen or heard in school that are contrary to these values.

For more details about the curriculum across all key stages, please visit the school website:

www.harrogategrammar.co.uk/curriculum

Additional Support



At Harrogate Grammar we see all our students as individuals with unique strengths.

A thorough transition process takes place, liaising with Primary colleagues and other professionals to help build a profile of student needs before arrival. A combination of baseline test results and qualitative observations deepen our understanding further and enables us to identify the support required.

All teaching staff deliver 'Quality First Teaching' which includes classroom strategies to support all Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). The emphasis is on 'accessibility', and we seek to remove any barriers to learning through a combination of working with the student to develop effective techniques as well as the use of assistive technology.

According to need, some students attend 'Core Plus' classes for additional literacy and numeracy. In addition, small group (wave 2) and targeted 1-1 (wave 3) sessions are offered to identified students.

In response to need, some students follow a bespoke curriculum and students with an Education, Health and Care plan receive support from our team of Teaching and Learning Assistants.

In Year 9, all students are screened for exam access arrangements.

We recognise the importance of good mental health and well-being and offer a variety of interventions to promote and support this.



If needs are more complex, our Learning Support Department can signpost to other agencies and work collaboratively to ensure all needs are met. Every student is supported to achieve excellence.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Harrogate Grammar School offers a wide range of activities beyond the curriculum. Giving students the chance to take part in activities outside of normal lessons helps to improve confidence, develop leadership qualities and further engages students in the enjoyment of school.

DISCOVERING STRENGTHS

There are a wide variety of activities on offer each week, encompassing a vast range of interests. Examples include a huge range of different sporting activities, additional language classes, such as Mandarin Chinese, Art and Design offer a choice of additional activities, not to mention maths club, chess club, and a wide variety of house events. There are many opportunities to represent the school.

The Faculty of Performing Arts promotes jazz band, wind band, orchestra, choirs, school of rock, lower school productions and whole school performances, including large musical concerts.

Students can participate in the Duke of Edinburgh Award, volunteer within the local community and join our charity and sustainability committees.



DEVELOPING SKILLS

In addition to the many and varied extra-curricular activities, students can also take up opportunities for greater responsibility and leadership. Working in school as prefects, peer mentors, house captains, student leaders and school council representatives, students contribute alongside colleagues to create a positive and caring environment.

There is an extensive range of extra-curricular sport on offer, in which all students are welcome to participate, regardless of ability or experience. We pride ourselves on offering a range of activities that actively encourage fun and inclusivity.

[Click here](#) for more information.

“

“The students that I speak to all have one thing in common – a real knowledge that if they work hard, it’s all there for the taking, I love that.”

Pupil parent

”



“

“Pupils know who to turn to if they need help, and skilled, caring staff ensure pupils’ needs are met effectively.”

Ofsted report, 2026

Wellbeing & Mental Health



Harrogate Grammar School is a positive place to learn where all colleagues and students feel safe, supported and that they belong. Our mental health and wellbeing strategy is led by a Kristin Smith, the Deputy Headteacher and Senior Lead for Mental Health.

Professional development is underpinned by evidence and expertise and our colleagues are well trained in relation to their role in school. This includes a proportion of colleagues who are trained in Mental Health First Aid.

Mental health and wellbeing is embedded in both the pastoral programme and through our curriculum. Our extensive extra-curricular programme offers activities which also supports wellbeing.

Students know how to ask for support and to disclose any incidents of bullying and discriminatory behaviour. They are also regularly consulted with, actively engage in decision making and are confident that they will be listened to and taken seriously.

There is a referral and pathway process for students who need additional support. Effective intervention is evidence-based.

The school partners with Harrogate Cluster Support Team, who offer emotional wellbeing and trauma support through a school counsellor and wellbeing worker.

The school ensures a non-judgemental, warm and welcoming environment for all parents and carers. It is really important to us that we form effective relationships with parent and carers.



Safeguarding

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all of our students. Each student's welfare is of paramount importance.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is everyone's responsibility. Everyone who comes into contact with children and their families and carers has a role to play in safeguarding children. In order to fulfil this responsibility, all our colleagues are child-centred in their approach. This means that they consider, at all times, what is in the best interests of the child.

Harrogate Grammar School follows NYSCP multi-agency procedures and Practice Guidance. This has been agreed as a framework for multi-agency working in child protection across North Yorkshire. It reflects the relevant national legislation, current guidance and local context in North Yorkshire.

All colleagues are trained on the most recent Keeping Children Safe in Education guidance. There are also 5 level 3 trained Designated Safeguarding Leads in school. These colleagues have also completed Operation Encompass training, allowing us to support families affected by domestic violence.



**OPERATION
ENCOMPASS**

“

Ofsted inspectors 2026 recognised that the school has established “an open culture in which safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.”

”



Diversity & Reach Out

Diversity, equality and inclusion are central to our core REACH values. We seek to celebrate the identity and individuality of each and every pupil as well as our wider school community, creating a culture of acceptance and safety.

We also have a legal responsibility as a school to eliminate discrimination and ensure all of our students have an equal opportunity to succeed in life.

Our Diversity and Reach Out approach is dedicated to ensuring we are as inclusive and progressive as possible, not only within our curriculum but the whole culture of the school.

Our ambition is to achieve the EqualTeach Equalities Silver Award and we are proud to have achieved The RED Award, in recognition of our commitment to Equality and Diversity.

The Red Kite Alliance RED Award has been developed to support schools to review, strengthen and celebrate their provision in terms of equality, diversity, respect for individuals and community cohesion.



Engagement with the award signals a clear commitment to place this agenda at the heart of the life and work of the school.

We are excited about our future plans to further celebrate and acknowledge all forms of diversity, driving towards an open and accepting culture for all colleagues, students and our wider community.

We believe that ensuring diversity runs as a thread through our whole curriculum will help to reduce any misconceptions students have about our diverse world. We want students to understand why discrimination, of any form, is unacceptable, either in or out of school.

Diversity also plays a key role in our pastoral provision, through our Big Picture and Sixth Form Progression programme. Our weekly assembly, as well as the conversations held in form time around the assembly topic, ensure students understand and have a voice.

Examination Results

Key Stage 4 GCSE	2026 Results
% of students achieved grades 9-5 in both English and Maths	63%
% of students achieved grades 9-4 in both English and Maths	87%
% of students achieved grades 9-4 in English Language	83%
% of students achieved grades 9-4 in English Literature	88%
% of students achieved grades 9-4 in Maths	87%
% of the cohort were entered for the EBacc	69%
Average Points Score per EBacc slot for the cohort	5.18
% of students achieved the EBacc measure at grade 9-4	50%
% of grades were at grades 9-7	34%



Key Stage 5 Sixth Form	2026 Results
% of A-Level grades were at grades A* , A or B	60%
% of A-Level grades were at grades A* or A	28%
% of A-Level grades were at grades A* to C	84%
% of BTEC grades were D*	16%
% of BTEC grades were D* to D	63%
% of BTEC grades were D*/D/M	94%

Achievements and Activities in 2025/2026

Academic Excellence and Enrichment

ART & DESIGN

The Art & Design Faculty continues to grow, with strong enrolment across Art, Graphics, Photography, Design, Food & Nutrition, and Hospitality & Catering. Students participated in Rotary competitions, MasterChef challenges, visits to Rudding Park and the New Designers exhibition, while the Annual A-Level Exhibition showcased outstanding student work. Many students progressed to creative degree courses, apprenticeships and further education pathways.

SCIENCE

Students engaged in an extensive range of enrichment opportunities across Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Highlights included Biology Week activities, the Biology Challenge, Intermediate Olympiad, Chemistry Olympiad, Cambridge Chemistry Challenge, Science Live, Physics Olympiad competitions and university visits. Students achieved numerous gold, silver and bronze awards at national level, while many also completed programmes with the Universities of Cambridge and Oxford, including STEM SMART, COMPOS and the Davidson Inventors Challenge. Year 7 students also represented the school in the Red Kite Alliance Science Competition.

HUMANITIES

Humanities played a leading role in Holocaust Memorial Day, Black History Month, LGBTQ+ History Month and Remembrance Day. Students enhanced their learning through visits to First World War battlefields, Munich and Nuremberg, Durham Cathedral and Castle, the Thackray Museum, Malham, Leeds, Iceland, The Deep in Hull, a Buddhist temple and a Philosophy & Ethics conference. A new KS3 Religious Studies curriculum was introduced, and Year 7 students visited York to explore its geography and history.

MATHEMATICS & COMPUTING

Students participated in the Junior, Intermediate and Senior Maths Challenges, the Girls Olympiad and the Ritangle competition. A significant achievement saw a student qualify for the British Mathematical Olympiad for the first time in over ten years. Two Axiom Maths Circles now run weekly, developing advanced problem-solving skills. The new KS3 Minecraft Club became one of the school's most popular activities, while outstanding engagement with Sparx Maths keeps HGS among the highest-performing schools locally and regionally.

ENGLISH

Students benefited from a rich range of literary experiences, including theatre productions of Macbeth, A Midsummer Night's Dream, A Streetcar Named Desire and Othello. Activities included Reading Week, visits to Dove Cottage, university lectures and workshops with author Jeffrey Boakye. Students across KS3 also participated in poetry and reading initiatives through Sparx Reader and National Poetry Day.

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Students experienced languages and cultures through exchange visits to Germany and Spain, hosting partner students, and a cultural visit to Northern France. Year 7 students took part in a whole-day Chinese New Year event, while 22 students completed an extracurricular Mandarin course and celebrated with a cultural visit to The Confucius Institute in Leeds.

PERFORMING ARTS

More than 600 students participated in performances and clubs across 12 major productions and events. Over 200 primary pupils attended Music Performance Days and productions, including the whole-school musical Oliver!. Additional opportunities included an opera trip, a London residential and workshops with industry professionals, helping students develop creativity, confidence and collaboration.



Achievements and Activities in 2025/2026



PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The school recorded its highest-ever participation levels, with students representing HGS in more than 400 fixtures across 12 sports. Notable achievements included:

- Senior Netball reaching the National Schools Finals and finishing 17th nationally.
- U18 Boys Rugby Sevens winning the North of England Bowl and progressing in the Rosslyn Park National Schools Sevens.
- U12 Girls Football winning the Yorkshire Schools Cup.
- U12 Boys and U14 Girls Football reaching county finals.

EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION (EPQ)

Students completed highly ambitious independent projects covering a wide range of subjects including science, literature, politics, history and the arts. The programme continues to develop advanced research, presentation and academic writing skills, with more than two-thirds of Year 13 students benefiting from reduced university offers as a result of their EPQ achievement.

SIXTH FORM ACHIEVEMENTS

The Sixth Form celebrated exceptional success, with over 75% of university applicants securing their first-choice destination. Students also achieved success through apprenticeships, degree apprenticeships, work experience placements, the Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award, Young Enterprise, Bar Mock Trial competitions, science Olympiads, sport, the arts, charitable initiatives and community engagement. Fundraising activities supported organisations including The Proud Trust and breast cancer research.

CAREERS AND PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

HGS continues to hold the nationally recognised Quality in Careers Standard Award, reflecting the strength of its careers education, guidance and employer engagement programme. In 2025 / 26 Years 10 & 12 undertook 2 weeks of work experience giving them the opportunity to explore the world of work, build confidence, and develop key skills like communication, teamwork, and initiative.

CELEBRATION OF ACHIEVEMENT

The Celebration of Achievement Evening recognised exceptional accomplishments across the school, with awards, trophies and inspirational speeches from Head Students Sophie Rees and Alex Smith and former student Sarah Day.



CHARITY

Students, colleagues and families demonstrated outstanding community spirit. The Charities Committee raised £6,915, including £1,000 for Give a Child a Hope in Uganda and £5,915 for Just 'B'. Events included discos, a fun run and non-uniform days.

PTA

The PTA also raised substantial funds through Burns Night, quizzes, raffles and uniform sales, supporting PE facility improvements by funding the new changing rooms, Science Week activities and the gifting of books to all new Year 7 students.

Overall, 2025-26 has been another exceptional year of achievement, participation, enrichment and community engagement, with students excelling academically, creatively, athletically and socially while embodying the values of HGS.

Red Kite Learning Trust

Our Trust Mission

Nurturing ambition, delivering excellence and enriching children's lives.



Our Trust Values



Collaboration

We pull together to deliver the best outcomes for every child in every school, working with professional generosity and openness for the common good. We share joy in our achievements - personal and collective.



Integrity

We put ethical leadership and excellent governance at the heart of our Trust, serving our schools and communities with fairness, honesty and transparency and a hunger for social justice.



Respect

We champion equity, equality and diversity. We treat our children, families, staff and partners with respect and kindness - modelling our values and wanting the very best for each other.

Our Trust Goals



We champion learning

Learning together creatively with a rich and broad curriculum, where great teaching and confident reading are fundamental to enriching children's lives.



We promote wellbeing

Ensuring the wellbeing of every child and member of staff in our Trust.



We invest in our people

Supporting every member of staff throughout their career to be the best that they can be.



We innovate with technology

Enabling all learners to harness technology, ensuring all have access at home, and innovating with technology for learning.



We are our Trust

Growing together collaboratively we will strengthen our Trust for the benefit of our children, our staff, our communities and our environment.

Harrogate Grammar School is part of Red Kite Learning Trust, a multi academy trust made up of 16 schools in North and West Yorkshire, serving over 10,000 children and young people, and their families.

Our shared Trust mission of nurturing ambition, delivering excellence and enriching children's lives is at the heart of all we do. As part of Red Kite Learning Trust, Harrogate Grammar School benefits from shared knowledge across schools and a central team of experts for School Improvement, Finance, HR, IT, Communications and Estates.

Within the framework of this supportive structure, Harrogate Grammar School works collaboratively with all the schools in our Trust to continually deliver the best outcomes for every child in its care.

Whilst our Trustees are ultimately responsible for all the schools in our Trust, each one, including Harrogate Grammar School, is managed locally by the Headteachers/Principals and their Local Governing Body, retaining their own identity.

When you join Harrogate Grammar School you can be reassured that the future strength and success of our school is further assured by being part of a strong, effective and successful Trust.

Wider Work and Careers

SUPPORTING THE WIDER EDUCATION COMMUNITY

Harrogate Grammar School has a lead role within the wider education community to train and develop school colleagues at every stage of their careers, from initial teacher training through to a full range of school leadership programmes. Our students benefit from this wider work as it impacts directly on the quality of teaching they receive.

RED KITE EDUCATION

Red Kite Education is a team of experienced colleagues who lead and support Red Kite Alliance, Red Kite Teacher Training and Red Kite Teaching School Hub. They serve a community of schools who work across all these strands. Harrogate Grammar School is a leading and active member of this community.

Red Kite Alliance is a partnership of over 58 schools and educational organisations across the North and West Yorkshire region, working collaboratively to be 'stronger together'

Red Kite Teacher Training is one of the largest school centred initial teacher training providers in the country and Red Kite Teaching School Hub is one of 87 Teaching School Hubs nationally supporting teacher development.

HARROGATE GRAMMAR SCHOOL'S 2025-26 ENGAGEMENT

16

EARLY CAREER
TEACHERS FOLLOWING
THE EARLY CAREER
FRAMEWORK

14

TRAINEE
TEACHERS
HOSTED

7

COLLEAGUES STUDYING
FOR A NATIONAL
PROFESSIONAL
QUALIFICATION (NPQ)

**In addition to the
Teaching School Hub,
Harrogate Grammar
lead on the Maths hub.**



MATHS HUB LEAD INSTITUTION

The core purpose of Maths Hubs is to help schools and colleges lead improvement in mathematics education. Working with maths leaders and other experts they aim to develop and spread excellent practice for the benefit of all pupils and students. They are part of the wider development of school-led system leadership in England.

There are 40 Maths Hubs that together serve all the regions of England. Each Maths Hub is a partnership, led locally. The Yorkshire Ridings Maths Hub is based at Harrogate Grammar School as the lead institution and works with schools in the North Yorkshire, York, and East Riding Local Authority Districts.

We were selected to become a lead school for the Maths Hub through a rigorous process run by the Department for Education (DfE) and the National Centre for Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics (NCETM). The selection process identified schools that demonstrated the credibility, capacity, and commitment to lead a Maths Hub. It is a great privilege to be recognised in such a way.

CAREERS

At Harrogate Grammar School, careers education is an integral part of school life, helping students develop the knowledge, skills and confidence to make informed decisions about their future.

Our careers programme has been recognised through the prestigious Quality in Careers Standard Award and provides students with access to impartial guidance, employer encounters, work experience and a wide range of career pathways. Supported by dedicated Careers Advisers, students engage with professionals from diverse industries and gain valuable insights into the world of work.

Careers education is embedded throughout the curriculum, alongside Big Picture lessons, assemblies and enrichment activities, enabling students to make meaningful links between their learning and future opportunities. Through this comprehensive programme, students are empowered to make ambitious, well-informed choices about their next steps.

EQUALITY STATEMENT

Your support for your child's education is crucial to their progress. Please tell us if there are any adjustments we need to make to help you support your child, for example: letters in large font; letters in different languages; wheelchair access; future telephone explanation; a discussion with a school colleague of the same gender. We have a comprehensive Equality Policy, which appears on the school's website [🔗](#). If you require a hard copy, this can be requested from Reception.

www.harrogategrammar.co.uk



HARROGATE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

EXCELLENCE FOR ALL

Harrogate Grammar School

Arthurs Avenue
Harrogate
North Yorkshire
HG2 0DZ

Tel 01423 531127

mail@hgs.rklt.co.uk

www.harrogategrammar.co.uk

