The Sixth Form
at Harrogate Grammar School
Excellence For All

RED KITE
LEARNING TRUST

24 November 2026

To Parents/Carers of all students in Year 13

The Sixth Form Team and teachers have been impressed with the positive focus and attitude shown by Year 13 students at the start of their final year in school. We would like to take this opportunity to share information about how we are supporting students to prepare for the mock exams, and support offered to students during this period.

Mock exams: 4 – 15 January
Please find attached the timetable for the forthcoming Year 13 mock exams here. Students will receive a more detailed timetable in due course, including which specific rooms their exams are in and additional information where students may have clashes. Externally examined units in some applied subjects will also take place during this period. These exams are also included in the timetable, with revision sessions allocated where necessary in advance of these exams.

The mock exams provide an excellent opportunity for students to experience the process of sitting full exam papers as they will do in the summer. The process enables students to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding and also allows students to identify gaps in knowledge. It is essential that they approach these exams in a serious and focused manner.

In order for students to have the opportunity to prepare in the best possible way for their examinations, students will have home study leave from Monday 4 to Friday 15 January and are only required to come into school for their exams. Study areas in school will, however, be open if students would prefer to come into school to work, or for students who may need to wait for buses after an exam and need somewhere to study. Students studying design subjects will have fewer written examinations. A dedicated day has been assigned for students to attend school for each design subject, but students are strongly encouraged to come into school to use the studio space and equipment throughout the mock period.

As all exams will be conducted under formal exam conditions, there must be silence upon entering and leaving the exam room as well as during the exam. Students must not take any type of device into the exam room, such as a mobile phone or smart watch. Bags and devices must be left in the bag room in advance of an examination. All writing equipment must be in a clear, see-through pencil case or plastic bag and any water bottles must be clear/see through, with no writing on them and with all labels removed. Students must conform to the Sixth Form dress code for all exams.

Academic support for mock exams
Throughout the half term, subject teachers will continue to cover content for the course within lessons. In addition to home learning tasks, teachers have been setting structured revision activities on a weekly basis to provide a clear focus for independent study time in preparation for the mocks.

A number of revision sessions are running on a weekly basis, either at lunch time or after school. These sessions are publicised in the bulletin each week. In the final week of the term, teachers will help students to consolidate their revision and help them to plan their time effectively over the Christmas break, so they are prepared for the exams in the New Year.

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In addition, students have had a Tuesday morning Progression assembly focused on effective revision strategies, including a suggested revision timetable document which students can personalise. Preparation continues on a one-to-one basis through a series of individual meetings between members of the Sixth Form Team and identified students. The purpose of these meetings is to unlock barriers to learning through building confidence and improving study habits to support them in achieving their full potential.

Progression support
A large number of university and apprenticeship applications have been submitted by students, and we ask that students remain patient whilst we make the final checks before formally submitting the application to UCAS. Students who are in the process of completing an application are encouraged to submit these as soon as possible in order that the checks can take place in advance of final submission. Our independent Careers Advisers, Mrs Mitchell, Mrs Howard and Mrs Noble, are also available to meet with students to discuss career options beyond the Sixth Form.

Public examination results
The provisional dates of A Level and Btec external examinations are 10 May – 21 June. We will inform you of the confirmed dates when these have been published. To help with any forward planning, we are able to let you know that A Level and Btec results will be published on 12 August 2027. Results for EPQs and GCSE re-sit exams will be published on 13 January 2027.

Upcoming dates

Date	**Event**
Monday 4 January to Friday 15 January	Internal 'mock' exams and external unit exams for some applied courses
Monday 18 January	Full timetabled lessons resume
Tuesday 2 February, 8.50am	Students receive mock exam results in school
Wednesday 3 February	Apprenticeship Interview Conference
Tuesday 23 February	Parent Consultation Evening, 4pm – 7pm. This event will be held in school
Wednesday 10 March, 6.30pm	Student Finance and Revision Advice Evening for parents
Friday 7 May	Final Day and Leavers Assembly
Saturday 26 June	Leavers Ball – Pavilions of Harrogate

We understand that the period leading up to mock exams can be stressful. Students are encouraged to come forward to speak to a member of the Sixth Form Team for advice and support. Equally, we encourage parents and carers to contact the Sixth Form Team if you have any questions about the term ahead: HGSsixthform@hgs.rklt.co.uk.

We wish students all the very best in their preparation for their mock examinations.

Yours sincerely



Mr B Twitchin
Director of Sixth Form
Deputy Headteacher