



End of Academic Year Message – Summer 2023

As we approach the new academic year, we want to take this opportunity to not only wish you a pleasant summer break but also update you about some developments next year.

This year, 44 trips took place involving 3,600 students. There were 95 regular clubs and we played 300 sporting fixtures. In performing arts, over 900 students took part in a school play, concert, gig, theatre visit or workshop. Year 7 enjoyed free taster lessons across a range of instruments and 156 students took part in the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme. A total of 49,714 excellent learner habits have been awarded this year. There were 24 house events, including walk to school and foodbank collections.



In May, we wished our Year 11 and Year 13 all the very best in their final examinations – Year 13 were the cohort who received Teacher Assessed Grades in the Summer of 2021. This year we delivered over 40 pre-examination technique sessions to support them before they sat examinations for the first time. We would like to acknowledge the excellent conduct of all of our students who have taken external exams this year and hope their hard work is rewarded on the results days in the summer.

OFQUAL have stated that they 'are expecting results in 2023 to be similar to those in pre-pandemic years.' As a post-pandemic measure, they have introduced grading protection for GCSE and A level students, meaning that a student 'who would have achieved an A before the pandemic should be just as likely to do so in 2023, even if the quality of their work is a little weaker.'

School Priorities next year

Next year we will continue our focus on returning attendance to pre-pandemic levels across the school. Whilst our data is above the national average, we know that regular attendance makes such a difference, and we want to achieve our ambitious target of 97 per cent.

Across a teaching body of 115 teachers, we have been working on using a standard language around classroom expectations and instructions, so that all our students are clear on what we expect from them and so that we can maximise our instruction time.

In addition, next year, we will continue to embed sustainability initiatives and students will see more recycling bins across the school.

In June this year, we carried out a computer-desktop free trial where teachers delivered lessons for the day through their iPad. We will carry out further test days next term, before potentially removing the desktop computers as a means to enhance teaching and create both energy and financial savings.

In September, we will start the term with key assemblies that welcome students back to school and stress key points about our values, expectations, learner habits and how/who students should reach out to if they need support in school.

Flexible Working Ambassador

The school has been successful in its bid this year to be a lead school in a government initiative to improve flexible working and lead culture change in the education sector. The initiative involves the school acting as an ambassador and working with partner schools to improve flexible working. This is part of a government strategy to tackle teacher recruitment and retention.

<https://www.flexibleworkingineducation.co.uk/>

Summer building projects

Due to the funding pressures in schools, we have a limited number of projects taking place over the summer to enhance the overall school environment:

- Redecoration and reconfiguration of the Hub, our main dining room
- Installing a marquee cover for Sustain so we can open this dining space all year round
- Updating bike storage
- Returning two offices to classroom spaces in the Sixth Form

Next year we hope to refurbish our changing rooms. Given the funding pressures on schools, we would welcome any ideas that you have around fundraising, knowledge about grants, benefactors, or alumni donations to help support this project. Please [email](#) the school.

Catering Costs



Our school hot meal deal remained the same for many years before we increased the cost last year from £2.90 to £3.20. Unfortunately, the pressure of food costs remains, and we need to increase our prices in September from the current £3.20 to £3.50. The price of individual menu items will also increase, and we will share a full price list in September.

Ties

In September, students will wear the new tie designs. Each year group will wear this design of tie as they progress through the school until the end of Year 11, meaning you will no longer need to purchase new ties in Year 10 and Year 11. We hope this reduces waste by only needing to buy one tie.

School tie designs from September 2023				
Year 7	Year 8 (current Year 7)	Year 9 (current Year 8)	Year 10 (current Year 9)	Year 11 (current Year 10)
Current Y7-9 tie	New Design	New Design	Current Y10 tie	Current Y11 ties

PTA

We would like to thank the PTA for their outstanding contribution to the school over the last academic year. This year the PTA has funded new audio equipment in the forum, books for all Year 7 students and also raised £1500 in their most recent second-hand uniform sale.

We are very grateful for their continued support. If you would like to support any aspect of the PTA in the future, please contact the Chair, [Rhona Johnston](#).



Charity

We would like to thank the charities committee for their incredible fund-raising efforts on behalf of SASH, Preventing Youth Homeless Together. This year, students have raised £10,766 with £1000 going to our established charity Give a child a hope in Uganda and £9,766 to SASH. Thank you for your donations and support. If you have not yet had chance to donate for non-uniform day today, donations can still be made via 'Scopay.'

Long Service

This year we say our goodbye to a number of staff who have delivered incredible service to HGS. We thank them for their commitment, recognise the difference that they have made to children and wish them all the very best for their future. The following staff leave after over 10 years of service:

- Mr Andrews Teacher of maths: 26 years
- Mrs Bennett Year Manager: 25 years
- Mrs Verspyck Teacher of art and design: 18 years
- Mrs Llewellyn Teacher of science: 17 years
- Mrs Smithson Year Manager: 15 years
- Miss Moore Year Manager: 15 years
- Mrs Gorny Teacher of art and design: 12 years
- Mrs Heron Teacher of science: 11 years

We would like to thank Mr Paul Cotton for his exceptional service as our Chair of Governors who steps down after 11 years. Paul has made a real difference to the school in this voluntary role, holding leaders to account and supporting the school to deliver excellence for all. Mr Andrew Lindley takes up the role of Chair after a successful year as Vice Chair.

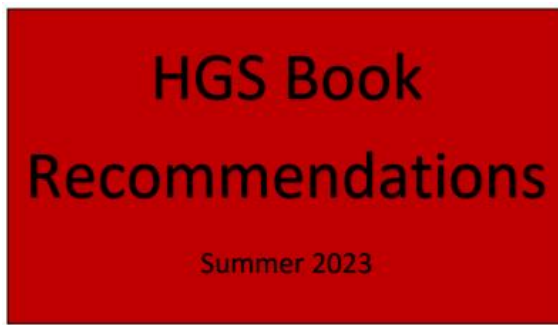
We also look forward to new staff joining us in September, including Mr Hill, a former student at HGS, who returns as our new Assistant Headteacher – Director of Maths.

Sixth Form

This has been a very busy period in the Sixth Form with our students involved in a host of different activities to support their learning and the transition to employment, training, or university. Click on the link below to read more about these events.

[Sixth Form end of year message 2023](#)

Summer Holiday



We have put together a useful [Summer Reading list](#), to encourage reading across the school.

It has been a busy year at HGS, and we hope you have managed to keep up to date with all that has been going on through our weekly parent bulletin, via Twitter and our website.

In the course of the academic year, we see the commitment and efforts of young people to achieve their own excellence. We would like to thank all our students for their efforts and you for your continued support. We really look forward to welcoming students back in September and wish you a very safe and happy holiday.

Mr Renton