



HARROGATE
GRAMMAR SCHOOL
EXCELLENCE FOR ALL

8 September 2023

Dear Parents/Carers of all students in Key stage 4 (Years 10 and 11)

Key Stage 4 Welcome and Key Information

It is a pleasure to welcome Year 10 and 11 students back to school after the summer break. The start of the new academic year presents an opportunity for students to set themselves personal targets and to establish a suitable strategy to ensure that they realise their ambitions in this important key stage.

Through this letter we hope to provide you with essential information about the arrangements for Years 10 and 11, and to address any queries that you may have.

Routines and Expectations

We have high expectations of all of our students. Full details of the routines and expectations can be found in the [parent handbook](#). We expect high levels of attendance throughout the year and 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%. We ask that you complete [this online absence form](#) before 9.30am if your child is ill. Routine medical and dental appointments should be made outside school time where possible. The NHS have given [guidance](#) if you are unsure whether to send your child to school.

Students must wear their uniform correctly and with pride; shirts need to be tucked in and shoes, not trainers or trainer styles need to be worn. We do not allow makeup and this includes fake eyelashes and false or painted nails or body/facial piercings. If students have these for an event or special occasion, please ensure that they have been removed in readiness for school. Your support in this is very much appreciated.

We continue to focus on our [Learner Habits](#), which are habits that learners need to exhibit to ensure that they are able to achieve the very best outcomes for themselves. As each student arrives to a lesson they will be marked as being an excellent learner from the start, if at any stage in the lesson after that they are not meeting the expectations around that habit, we will be recording that change is needed. Students will know what it is they need to work on in order to best support their progress moving forward.

KS4 mindset

At KS4, there is a greater emphasis on self-guided learning in preparation for publicly assessed exams at the end of year 11. Students are encouraged throughout to be independent and reflective learners in order to secure the best possible outcomes. All our students are supported by our subject specialist teaching staff and all the teaching resources can be found in Showbie. Similarly, all home learning tasks assigned to students will be available via their Arbor app on their iPads. Parents will also have access to this information via the [Parent Arbor app](#).

The start of the year provides an opportunity for students to reflect on the effectiveness of their learning. It is important that students are able to learn strategies that help to commit learning to long-term memory, and which allows them to apply knowledge in a purposeful way. As part of this, we will continue to focus on explicit vocabulary instruction across all subjects. By teaching our students a greater understanding of the words they use they will build their understanding and knowledge of the subjects they study.

Students should expect to receive one piece of home learning per subject per week. As students progress through KS4, we encourage them to continually review and revisit prior learning. This is in addition to any home learning set.

It is important that students commit to developing a positive mindset for learning, and we will be working with students throughout the year to build confidence in preparation for their GCSE exams and their next steps after KS4.

Support and Help through KS4

Year 10 and 11 have dedicated Year Managers who should be the first point of contact for any issues students and parents may have.

Year 10 is Mrs Wilkinson WilkinsonK@hgs.rklt.co.uk Tel: 01423 531127 ext: 7049

Year 11 is Mrs Oliver OliverM@hgs.rklt.co.uk Tel: 01423 531127 ext: 7050

Year 10 and 11 students also have access to the JustB emotional support service. They should see their year manager in the first instance if they feel they may need this support.

Key Dates for this Year

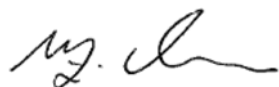
Date	Event	Y10	Y11
Monday 18 September	GCSE PE information evening	✓	x
Tuesday 19 September	Supporting success evening for KS4	✓	✓
Wednesday 4 October	Year 10 SEND consultation evening	✓	x
Wednesday 11 October	Year 11 SEND consultation evening	x	✓
Friday 13 October	Big Picture Day	✓	✓
Tuesday 21 November	Year 11 Parent's Consultation evening	x	✓
w/c 27 November	Mock speaking exams	x	✓
w/c 4 and 11 December	Mock exams	x	✓
Friday 19 January	Taster Day in Sixth Form	x	✓
Saturday 27 January	Sixth Form Open Day	x	✓
Tuesday 30 January	Year 10 Parent Consultation evening	✓	x
20-22 February	GCSE Food and Nutrition Assessments	x	✓
28 and 29 February	GCSE Geography fieldwork trips	x	✓
w/c 4 and 11 March	Mocks exams – English/Maths/Science	x	✓
w/c 18 March	GCSE PE Moderation	x	✓
w/c 25 March	Easter revision sessions	x	✓
w/c 15 April	GCSE Art/photo exams	x	✓
w/c 15 and 22 April	GCSE speaking exams	x	✓
Friday 10 May	GCSE study leave begins	x	✓
Wednesday 22 May	Year 10 SEND Consultation evening	✓	x
Friday 21 June	Year 11 Prom	x	✓
Monday 24 June	Sixth Form Induction	x	✓
Thursday 27 June	GCSE Art Exhibition	✓	✓
Wednesday 3 July	Big Picture Day	✓	x
Thursday 4 July	Year 10 End of Year trip	✓	x
Friday 12 July	Year 10 Sports Day	✓	x

School Term dates can be found here: [Term Dates](#)

	Virtual Event
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We look forward to working with you and your child in a way that best serves their interests and effectively shapes their future. Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you require any information throughout the year via 01423 531127 or mail@hgs.rklt.co.uk.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Mason', written in a cursive style.

Mr N Mason
Assistant Headteacher, Director of Upper School