



The Sixth Form

at Harrogate Grammar School
Excellence For All

8 March 2024

Dear Student and Parent/Carer for information

Year 13 students have been working hard since the mock exams in January as they prepare for their final A Level and Btec exams in the summer. We understand that this can be a stressful time for students, and I want to take this opportunity to provide important information about the support that students have access to both in and out of school.

Parents Evening

It was a pleasure to welcome you into school for the final parents evening on 27 February. I hope that you found the experience useful and productive. Given that this was the first time that we have hosted such an evening in school since the start of 2020, we would appreciate any feedback that you have. Please do this by taking a few moments to complete this very short [Feedback Form](#).

Supporting success

All subject areas have a clear plan to support students in lessons through teaching new content and setting revision activities over the final 7 weeks of school. The length of dedicated revision time in lessons will vary between subjects, depending on the nature of the content studied. Teachers will continue to set a range of home learning tasks and structured revision tasks which help students to revisit other elements of the course in a focused and purposeful manner. These revision tasks will be set on Arbor for students, and are accessible on Showbie.

Subject areas are running a programme of revision sessions on a weekly basis. The timetable for these sessions is published in the weekly Sixth Form Bulletin, and promoted with students. Students are also able to study independently in the Study Centre in their timetabled Study periods, designated 'free' periods, and from 7.30am until 5pm each day.

More broadly, our Progression programme has been covering strategies to manage stress and anxiety around exams. We continue to run a series of sessions focusing on revision strategies, and form tutors will work with students to develop a revision timetable and good revision habits. The Sixth Form Team is on hand to support students if they have any challenges in their learning or concerns about their studies.

Easter Revision

A programme of revision sessions will run over the Easter holiday. These sessions are designed to provide some structure for students during the holiday, and to provide opportunities for students to ask questions and build confidence. In addition to the Easter Revision sessions we are pleased to offer independent silent study sessions for Year 13 students during the first week of the Easter break. The sessions will take place in S10 on:

- Monday 25 March – 9am to noon and 1pm to 4pm
- Tuesday 26 March – 9am to noon and 1pm to 4pm
- Wednesday 27 March – 9am to noon and 1pm to 4pm

These sessions are offered free of charge, a place can be booked via the Arbor app, within the Trips section. Places are allocated on a first come first served basis.

Students should bring their own study material to these sessions. We ask that students do not use air pods or headphones in these sessions.

Exam timetable

The exam times have been published for the summer 2024 series. Please access the [overview timetable](#) for information about the specific dates for each examination unit. Students will receive an individual exam timetable in due course.

Progression beyond the Sixth Form

Students who have applied through UCAS for university courses are receiving offers, and the deadline for students to reply to the offers they receive is 6 June. Students need to think carefully before accepting offers, considering the course content, the location, and the grade requirements. Students will make 2 choices:

1. A Firm acceptance – this is the first choice
2. An Insurance acceptance – the back-up choice and ideally this should be one with lower offer conditions. This choice will only become relevant if the grades for the firm choice are not met.

Once the choices have been made, the university must honour the offer that has been made by awarding a place if the conditions are met. Students cannot choose between the firm and insurance when results are published in August.

Students who have not applied to university are encouraged to access the support available in school to investigate the range of apprenticeships and further education options. If a student has changed their mind, and now wishes to apply to university, they can do so by speaking to a member of the Sixth Form Team and accessing [UCAS Extra](#) from 6 June. A range of apprenticeship and degree apprenticeship opportunities continue to be published in the weekly Sixth Form bulletin, and students can seek opportunities through [Unifrog](#) and the [government apprenticeship website](#). Our Careers Advisor, Mrs Mitchell is available for appointments on Monday to Wednesday each week. Mrs Mitchell is available to contact via :- MitchellK@hgs.rklt.co.uk

Student Finance and Year 13 Advice presentation

Thank you to those who attended the Finance and Advisory Evening on 28 February. The presentation from Jonathan Croall, Head of Student Finance from the University of Huddersfield, containing all of the details relating to student finance can be accessed [here](#). The presentation also contains important advice about supporting revision for Year 13 students as they approach their exams.

Key dates

Yearbook payment deadline	Friday 22 March
Deadline to sign up for Easter revision	Monday 11 March
End of Spring term	Friday 22 March
Start of Summer term	Monday 8 April
Leavers Ball payment deadline	Friday 3 May
Final day of school – leavers’ assembly	Friday 10 May
Exam period begins	Monday 13 May
Final date for accepting UCAS offers	Thursday 8 June
Leavers Ball	Thursday 27 June
Results day	Thursday 15 August

I am sure that the final 7 weeks of school will be positive and productive for our Year 13 students as they prepare for their final exams. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Sixth Form Team via HGSsixthform@hgs.rkt.co.uk.

Your faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ben Twitchin', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ben Twitchin
Director of Sixth Form