



# HGS News

Spring term 2 2025

## Message from Mr Twitchin Director of Sixth Form

One of the best things about being the Director of Sixth Form at HGS is watching the journey that students go on as they grow and learn throughout their time with us both academically and socially. It gives us great pride to see them go on to a range of exciting pathways beyond school.

My team's involvement in their journey doesn't just begin in September of Year 12 but goes right back to the early weeks of Year 11. Prior to the Open Evening in October, we speak to students in assemblies about the range of courses and opportunities that the Sixth Form has to offer. Year 11 students then take part in the Sixth Form Taster Day at the beginning of January, where they get to experience lessons in 6 different subjects, before submitting their applications at the start of February.

The end of this term marks somewhat of a milestone for us in this process as my team has recently held coursing discussions with every applicant. Whilst speaking to over 550 students from HGS and other schools is a huge undertaking, it is incredibly valuable as we start to get to know them better and are able to offer them advice about courses and ensure they are set up on the best pathway for success. Students have now received their conditional offer of a place in the Sixth Form, and it provides a real focus for them as they target specific grades in their GCSE exams to secure their transition for September.



Over the next term we will host an Induction Day following the GCSE exams to give students the opportunity to start the transition into their level 3 courses and to be introduced to the summer bridging work that is set by all subjects to set students up for September. When GCSE results day arrives, my team is on hand to enrol students and to support their progression into Year 12.

So while our Year 13 students prepare to take their exciting next step, we support the next cohort of students to make the transition into the Sixth Form. We look forward to watching them grow and learn over the next two academic years.

## Termly Curriculum Overview

[Key Stage 3 - Years 7, 8 and 9](#)

[Key Stage 4 - Years 10 and 11](#)

Please click on the links to access the Termly Curriculum Overview.

[Key Stage 5 - Year 12](#)

[Key Stage 5 - Year 13](#)

## Extra Curricular

Please click on [this link](#) to see the clubs we have available. To sign up visit the Arbor Parent App Clubs section.

Our Summer term PE timetable is available to view [here](#).

## HGS Social Media

To keep up to date with Life at HGS please follow our School accounts.



Sixth  
Form  
Accounts





## Dates for your diary - April 2025

From Monday 10 April to Thursday 17 April	Easter revision sessions	Year 11 & Year 13
Tuesday 22 April	School Reopens	All Year groups
Tuesday 22 April to Friday 25 April	GCSE Art/Photography exams	Year 11
Wednesday 23 April	A Level Photography Exam	Year 13
Monday 28 April	GCSE Speaking exams until Friday 2 May	Year 11
Monday 28 to Wednesday 30 April	A Level Graphics Exam	Year 13
Tuesday 29 April	Career Pathway talks	Year 12
Tuesday 29 April	Parents Consultation Evening	Year 7
Thursday 1 May to Tuesday 6 May	A Level Art Exam	Year 13
Friday 2 May	HPV Vaccines	Year 8
Tuesday 6 May	PE GCSE Moderation	Year 11
Wednesday 7 May	Year 11 Leavers Assembly	Year 11
Wednesday 7 May	Intensive study period starts for GCSE exams	Year 11
Friday 9 May	Condoover Hall - Netball trip	Year 7
Friday 9 May	Study period starts for A Levels/BTEC exams	Year 13
Monday 12 May	Geography fieldwork	Year 12
Wednesday 14 May	Geography fieldwork	Year 12
Wednesday 14 May 2025	Romantic Literature Workshop at Dove Cottage	Year 9
Thursday 15 May 2025	Battlefields trip	Year 7 & Year 8



## PTA Update

Help us re-use, recycle and raise funds at the used uniform sale on Saturday 26 April. The sale will be held from 10am until midday inside the Hub. Blazers and Hoodies are £10, everything else £5 and we will also be selling used study guides. This is a big fundraiser for the PTA so please donate any unwanted uniform (main reception at school).

Dropping off in the Easter Break – Monday 7, Tuesday 8, Wednesday 9 April, Sixth Form reception between 10am to 11.30am or 1.30pm to 3pm.



## Saturday School for Year 11 students

Saturday School for our Year 11 students has so far proved very popular with well over 100 students attending every Saturday morning. Students can stay for up to 3 hours where they can complete independent revision in a quiet and supportive environment. Students can also access taught revision lessons in English, Maths and Science which have run through each session and are increasingly popular.

Students have praised the initiative saying it has really helped support their weekend revision and given them another opportunity outside the of the normal school week to benefit from our teachers expertise. They have said they have particularly appreciated the free hot chocolate and chocolaty treats!

Saturday school forms part of our wider supporting success initiatives in year 11 that have been running throughout the year helping students reach their potential in the summer exams.

We have created a page on the school website where all the information regarding Year 11 support can be found. This includes the GCSE summer exam timetable. There are drop in sessions, master classes, Saturday and Easter revision sessions available to students. Click [here](#).

## Arbor App - Logging same day absence

An exciting new feature in Arbor – Logging same day absences for your child on the Parent Portal and Arbor App. We are releasing a new feature on the Arbor Parent Portal and the Arbor App, which will let you log your child's absence directly.

You can only record same-day absences, so for any extended or future absences, please contact our Attendance team either by phone on 01423 535635 or by email: [HGSAttendance@hgs.rklt.co.uk](mailto:HGSAttendance@hgs.rklt.co.uk) in the normal way. We will also be able to acknowledge your message via the app if the absence is authorised to show that it has been processed.

You can continue to use StudyBugs for medical absences but we will be transitioning away from this in the near future.

### Tech tips:

You will need to access the Attendance section in the 'Quick Actions' button. Use the green 'Log Absence' button on the top right of the page, input the absence details and submit the request. Once approved, it will be visible in the Absence tab.

Requests cannot be edited, only deleted and redone, if changes are needed.

Approved absences cannot be deleted – please contact the team.



## Support for parents around important conversations: Incels and Adolescence - Let's Keep the Dialogue Open

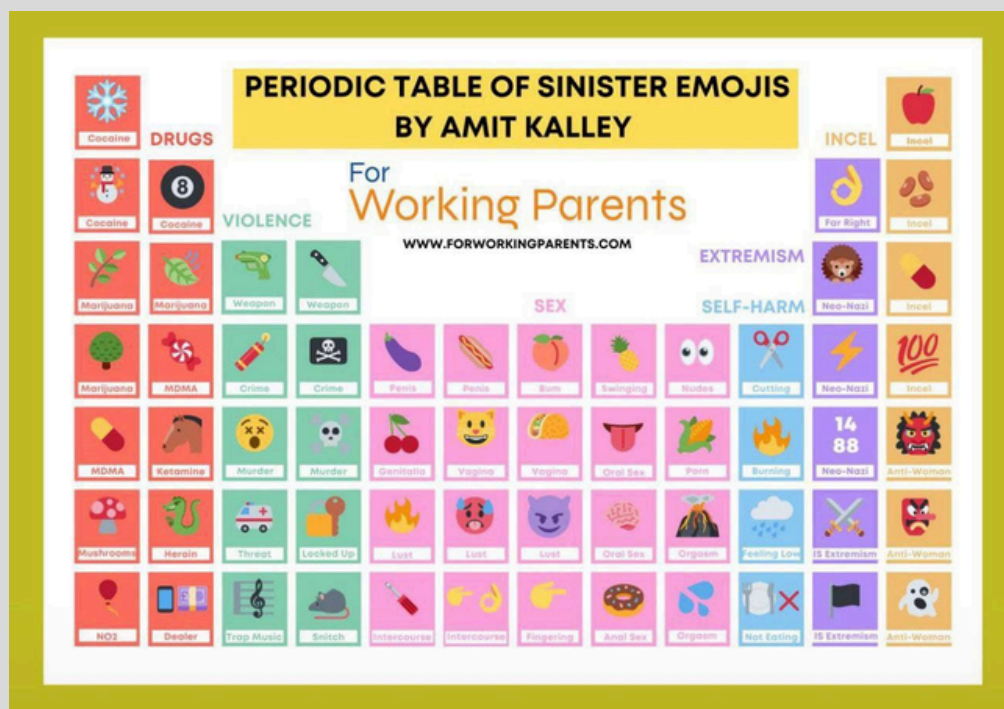
The new TV drama Adolescence has sparked conversations around some difficult issues. We want to highlight a topic that requires careful attention: Incels. This term refers to “involuntary celibates,” a group that has gained attention for its harmful ideologies, particularly regarding relationships and gender.

As parents, it's important to be aware of the conversations and content your young person is engaging with, especially as media portrayals can sometimes reflect or even influence real-world attitudes. Adolescence touches on themes related to identity, self-worth, and relationships—topics that can be challenging for young people navigating their own experiences. We also know that it can be hard to have these conversations if you don't feel fully aware of the situations and thinking that is influencing young people. To support this, we are sharing these parent guides with you to empower you to take an active role in helping your young person to feel safe to talk to you.

We encourage all parents to take this opportunity to open up a conversation with their teens. Keep the lines of communication open, listen to their concerns, and offer guidance about healthy relationships and self-esteem. Conversations like these not only help them understand the complexities of the world around them, but also help build trust and connection within the family.

Let's support our young people in developing positive perspectives about themselves and others. Remember, it's not just about monitoring content—it's about being an active part of their lives and helping them feel safe to talk with you and others about tough topics.

Please use this guide to Incels to help support you to start conversations with your young person. We have also included a guide to the meaning of some emojis to young people. Please use this to support you in monitoring the content of your young person's messages and again to help you open up a conversation with them around these topics to support them in remaining safe.







## Support for parents around important conversations: Incels and Adolescence - Let's Keep the Dialogue Open

[www.youcantknoweverything.com](http://www.youcantknoweverything.com)

### Incel culture *PARENT GUIDE*



The recent **Netflix** drama **Adolescence** has highlighted the troubling rise of incel (involuntary celibate) communities and their influence on young people. As a parent, it is important to understand this online subculture, recognise warning signs, and engage in open conversations with your child. This guide explains incel ideology, key terms, signs to look out for, and conversation starters to help you support your child. You can find further support on our website.

#### What is an incel?



The term **incel** stands for 'involuntary celibate' and refers to men who believe they are unable to form romantic or sexual relationships despite wanting to. Some incel communities foster resentment towards women, blaming them for their perceived misfortune. These forums (often online) can promote misogyny, victimhood, and, in extreme cases, radicalisation.

#### Key Incel Terminology

**Red Pill** – From The Matrix, refers to 'waking up' to the 'truth' of gender dynamics, as incels perceive them.

**Chad** – An attractive, successful man who is desirable to all women.

**Stacy** – An attractive woman who is seen as prioritising men like Chad.

**Becky** – An average woman, often contrasted with a Stacy.

**Femoid/Foid** – A dehumanising term, implying women are inferior.

**Black Pill** – Belief that nothing changes with self improvement or effort.

**80/20 Rule** – A theory suggesting that 80% of women are attracted to 20% of men, fuels resentment.

**Andrew Tate** – A key promoter of incel ideology.

#### Signs to Look Out For:

- Low self-esteem
- Use of incel language
- Hostility towards women
- Isolation and secrecy
- Increased frustration & anger



#### Conversation Starters:

- What do you think makes a healthy relationship?
- Do you think it's fair to blame one group of people for personal difficulties?
- How do you decide whether something you read online is trustworthy?

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# Life @ HGS

## Bar Mock Trial National Final in London

On Saturday 22nd March, fourteen sixth form students competed in the prestigious Bar Mock Trial competition at the Royal Courts of Justice in London. On the Friday, final preparations were carried out on the train down with questions and queries discussed. It was a smooth journey down to King's Cross, with pizza for dinner and an early night for the big day ahead.

It was an early start with a departure of 7:30am, which meant we had time for a quick tour around Gray's Inn which is one of the four Inns of Courts in London. Our barrister mentor is a member of Gray's Inn so the students were able to envision their future workplace, walking in the footsteps of some of the greatest members of the judiciary. Security kindly opened the gates so the students could enjoy a walk around the vast gardens after breakfast and embrace the history of the area.



Approaching the Royal Courts of Justice, the students were weighing up the competition and making final preparations of their speeches and cross examinations. Once through the intense security, we were completely encapsulated by one of the most impressive buildings in the country. The soaring arches, stained glass windows and mosaic marble flooring left us in awe at this majestic building. All three rounds were carried out in the Court of Appeal courtrooms, which some barristers never appear in their entire careers, so this was exciting. The students heard an inspiring speech from Barbara Mills KC, the chair of the Bar Council, and were also in the presence of Lady Justice Kathryn Thirlwall, a judge of the Court of Appeal and the Attorney General: Lord Richard Hermer KC.

Then it was time for the competition to begin. Round 1 saw our prosecution team up against Glenthorne High School defending. Brando Halloum and Adam Stanley were our prosecution barristers accusing Vim Speed of possession of an illegal drug. Lucy Quine, was the security guard who found the drug in Vim Speed's bag at the velodrome. Swetha Mani was his teammate, Ash Morgan, who was accused by Speed of having the drugs in their open bag, in their open locker, located next to Vim Speed's. The case ran smoothly with the thoroughness and careful attention to the proceedings from our court clerk, Sophie Rees, who cooperated with the team and liaised with the judge. The jury found the defendant guilty – a credit to the impressive advocacy from our prosecution team.





# Life @ HGS



Then for Round 2, it was time for our defence team to defend Leigh Hinton: a security guard accused of assault occasioning actual bodily harm on a threatening eighteen-year-old, Sam Mojid. Alex Pear and Cameron Lindsey performed excellently by carefully questioning the witnesses and engaging the jury in their arguments. Isaac Haley was the defendant: an ex-army man who felt threatened by the three adults outside his place of work: the Paradise Arcade and Fin Ripley supported the defendant as his manager. The advocates displayed intense questioning and thinking on their feet by analysing the responses from the witnesses of Royal Latin School. Ana Gama ensured the witnesses knew where and when to head to the witness dock, and she escorted the judge in and out of the courtroom during the jury deliberations. The jury found the defendant not guilty, which is a credit to the defence put forward by the incredible team.

After lunch, our defence team were up again for the final round, now defending the cyclist Vim Speed against Banbridge Academy. This time there was a focus on conveying the belief that the drugs were indeed Ash Morgan's, and that Vim Speed was anxious, scared and doubtful about what to do when he found the drugs, so he attempted to find a police officer at the velodrome. The advocates spoke with conviction and determination of Speed's innocence, so although he was ruled as guilty by the jury, it was determined the majority by one person. Another excellent performance from the defence team.

The Bar Mock Trial team would not be complete without our insightful jury, comprising of George Woolston, Niamh Walker, Chiamaka Ekeledo and Gracie Howell. Throughout the preparations and on the day, our fabulous jury were able to indicate the strong and weak points of the cases as well as step in as witnesses for our barristers to practise their cross examinations.

Whilst the students anxiously awaited results, we were able to participate in a Q&A with Mr Justice Johnathan Richards, who assisted HGS with their queries about his journey into law. They discovered that he started with a degree in maths then worked as a solicitor in tax at a city law firm to now sitting as a judge. He enlightened the students by encouraging them to, "Choose A-level and degree subjects that you enjoy the most and that inspire you. These may be different from the subjects that you think you are best at."

Although Harrogate Grammar School did not win, this was the first year the school competed in the competition, so to reach the National Final is an achievement that all students should be immensely proud of. They were continuously reminded by the judges that many lawyers will never have a case in the Court of Appeal throughout their entire careers, so to have this experience is an amazing accomplishment.

We want to thank our amazing barrister mentor for coaching this team since September and Raworth's solicitors for sponsoring this unforgettable experience.

Miss Meenagh



# Life @ HGS

## French Exchange



We recently welcomed our French exchange students to school. They enjoyed attending lessons with their partners and exploring the local areas of Harrogate, York and Knaresborough. They took part in many activities including a trip to the York Chocolate Story, taking in York's historic sights, boating on the River Nidd, bowling and a traditional afternoon tea.

## Spring Concert

The Spring Concert at HGS was nothing short of spectacular, showcasing the incredible talent of both soloists and ensembles. The evening unfolded with a diverse array of performances, each one brimming with passion and artistry. From the opening notes to the final moments, the concert had something for everyone, blending joy, excitement, and deep emotion.

A standout moment of the night came during the collaboration between the String Ensemble and the Choir on Coldplay's Fix You. The performance was a poignant display of musical harmony, and it had the audience in tears.

The strings' rich, warm tones perfectly complemented the powerful voices of the choir, capturing the essence of the song's emotional depth. The result was a truly moving performance that left an indelible mark on all who were present.

Throughout the evening, the performers demonstrated an incredible range of expression, with a program that effortlessly transitioned from light-hearted fun to powerful, soul-stirring moments. The mix of energy, passion, and nuance kept the audience on the edge of their seats, while the stunning lighting design added an extra layer of magic to the event. The lights beautifully complemented the music, illuminating the stage in ways that enhanced each performance, setting the perfect mood for every piece.

The Spring Concert was more than just a showcase of musical skill—it was a celebration of the hard work, dedication, and collaboration of all the performers involved. From the soloists to the ensembles, each group gave their all, leaving the audience in awe of their talent and the power of music to connect, inspire, and move us. The Spring Concert was truly a night to remember, one that beautifully captured the heart and soul of music at HGS.

Alex Stanhope a parent, kindly filmed the concert which you can watch at [https://youtu.be/AySmx\\_dIAeg](https://youtu.be/AySmx_dIAeg)







# Life @ HGS

The Sixth Form  
at Harrogate Grammar School  
Excellence For All



## Year 10 trip to The Globe to see The Scottish Play – World Book Day, March 2025

We left school at 7am and took the coach to London. When we arrived at St Paul's Cathedral, we were able to have a nice walk over the Millenium Bridge in the spring sunshine with lunch in between. We were able to see The Globe from the bridge first and it was just like I had imagined, although was smaller than we all had originally thought.

The Globe is an impressive place within which to see Shakespeare's work. The vast medieval style theatre provides a dramatic backdrop for the performance. Viewing the play from the standing area directly in front of the stage allowed us to be immersed in the live performance as the actors entered and left through the audience constantly.



The play was very exciting and rather surprising because of the modern interpretation. It was not like we had imagined it would be, as it involved many things such as stunts and modern costumes which made it very interactive. The cast were dressed in military fatigues and used modern day props such as bicycles and mobile phones. The casting for the play was true to the way that Shakespeare would have been inclined to fill roles, with some male characters being played by females and vice versa.

We very much enjoyed the experience of seeing the play within The Globe as it allowed for an authentic experience and we would definitely recommend it to others.

We arrived back at school at 10.30 – a long day, but a really rewarding one!

By George Entwistle and Georgina Savic (Year 10)







# Life @ HGS

## Ski trip to Prato Novoso, Italy - Review by Year 10 student Ava

One of the most enjoyable and memorable parts of the trip was when we first stepped foot onto the slope on our skis and seeing everyone together having fun was one of the best parts for me. Each day we woke up and skied for 4 hours in the morning and then we stopped back at the hotel for some lunch, after that we then skied for another 2 hours in the afternoon. We got to experience loads of new fun things and try different foods in the hotel.

We had an instructor with our group who helped us to improve and by the end of the week everyone had gotten a lot better! On one of the afternoons, it was a bit foggy, so we got to stop off for a hot chocolate at one of the restaurants on the slopes and we met some of the other groups there. This was really enjoyable.



After our afternoon sessions we had a few hours of free time where we played games with our friends and even spoke to people that we didn't know much before. I made new friends throughout the trip and spoke to lots of new people.



We got to go to multiple different mountains and had a chance to ski in loads of different places, this was a highlight of the trip for me and being able to see where we were staying from the top of the mountain was incredible. Our instructor taught us many new facts about the skiing and slopes, which was very informative and interesting.

Each day our instructor would teach us something new that would improve our skiing and then we would practise that and slowly over the week we managed to do all of the different coloured slopes. We started on the green slopes (easiest) and by the end we had been down a black slope (hardest)! The staff at the resort were a massive part of our trip and made it so much fun.

Overall, I thought the ski trip to Prato Nevoso was an amazing experience and so much fun. We had so much time to experience so many exciting new things and I'd love to do it again.







# Faculty Focus

## Humanities at HGS

Students in history have been studying a diverse range of topics since the start of the year, including the Romans, the Transatlantic slave trade, witchcraft, African kingdoms, the rise of fascism and the Holocaust. Many topics have included a local element, such as the history of the Jewish community of York and the visible impact of the slave trade in buildings such as Harewood House.

GCSE historians have had the opportunity to visit sites of historical significance such as Durham Cathedral and castle to learn about developments in England after the Norman Conquest, and the Thackray Medical Museum in Leeds for a revision day focused on their study of medicine through time. In addition, GCSE students had the opportunity to visit Munich and Nuremberg to exemplify their study of Germany from 1890-1945.



Geographers at HGS have continued to trace the golden threads of geography through their learning, exploring both human and physical geography, including ecosystems, the development gap, rivers and flooding and superpower countries. In year 8, all students visited The Deep aquarium in Hull to gain an understanding of the impact of humans on the marine environment and the effect that plastic is having on the planet. In year 7, students took part in fieldwork on the school grounds to observe how infiltration rates vary across a variety of surfaces. Year 11 geographers have taken their learning outside of the classroom as they undertook their fieldwork over two days, visiting Leeds to look at the success of urban regeneration in South Bank, and Malham to deepen their understanding of river processes.







# Faculty Focus

In RS, a new curriculum is in development based around different worldviews. This is based on extensive research carried out nationally but also from conversations with HGS students about their understanding of religion and their study of it. Students at KS3 have been introduced to what a worldview is, asked the question 'Was Jesus a radical?', considered what it means to be a Hindu in the UK and explored Sikhi teachings.

## What is a "worldview"?

"Our **worldviews** include the things that matter most to us, the things that affect our everyday living and help us decide how to live. These things include beliefs, attitudes, desires and hopes. They are influenced by our upbringing and family, by what we see in the world around us, the people who inspire us, and by what we learn at school and outside."



Politics students have been studying the ever-changing world of UK and US politics, attempting to keep up with the fast-paced changes occurring as the result of the second Trump presidency. Students have also been lucky enough to hear from new local MP, Tom Gordon, who visited HGS to talk about the 2024 election campaign, his experience as a new MP and to share his views on the issues affecting Harrogate and Knaresborough.



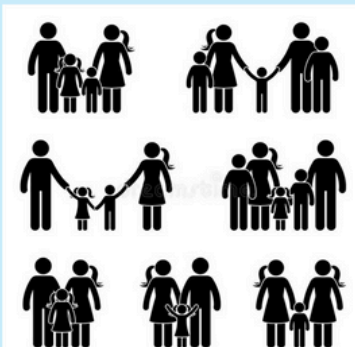
## What is a family?

Learning goal:

- ☐ To identify and describe different types of families in the UK today.



- Family Diversity
- Nuclear Family
- Same-Sex Family
- Extended Family
- Modified Extended Family
- Beanpole Family
- Lone-parent Family
- Reconstituted Family



This year has been an exciting year for Sociology, as the GCSE course has been launched with Year 10 students. Uptake from students has been strong with topics on the GCSE course including family diversity and an introduction to sociological perspectives. In Year 13, students are also tackling the topic of the media, a new addition to the A level course.



# HGS Sport

## Sports Focus from Mr Ryder, Director of Sport

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the staff, students, and parents for what has been a highly successful spring term for sport at HGS.

Our afterschool sports clubs continue to be as popular as ever, and we have hosted or travelled to an impressive 122 individual sports fixtures this term, bringing the total number of fixtures this year to 288. There have been many fantastic performances and achievements, and all students who have represented the school should be extremely proud of their efforts.

This term has seen several standout performances, including:

- The 4th Team Senior Netball squad winning the Silcoates School Netball Tournament—a brilliant achievement. The team has shown incredible commitment, improving each week.
- The U14 Boys Rugby team securing victory in the Yorkshire Schools Cup and winning the Woodhouse Grove 7's Plate.
- U14 girls hockey team went to Nottingham on for the England Hockey State School Championships. The A team came runner's up in the trophy and the B team won the Vase. Huge Congratulations girls, what an amazing achievement!

Each academic year we ask if parents/carers can contribute towards the running of the school sports events. Thank you to the families who have already made a voluntary contribution. If you would like to contribute please visit the Parent Arbor App and select School Shop.



The 4th Team Senior Netball squad



Hockey



U18 Boys rugby team at Rosslyn Park