



Autumn 2018

# NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 1

## Academy Head message

We would like to thank our students, parents/carers and governors for such a positive start to the academic year. We thoroughly enjoyed celebrating with students on the summer results days and were keen to welcome our Year 7 students in September. It is wonderful to see how well our Year 7s have settled into life at secondary school with many students embracing the opportunities for enrichment through after school clubs and leadership opportunities.

We are in the process of re-launching the Student Voice leadership team, which will see students taking up a variety of roles, such as; Student Governor, Department Ambassador, Student Interviewer, Student Researcher, Eco Warrior to name just a few. We work hard to put students at the heart of everything that we do and are thrilled that so many students plan to take an active role in their education.

We experienced a record number of families visiting the school for Open Evening and Open Day. I would like to thank all students and staff that supported at these events and the Year 6 parent tours that have taken place each day.

As part of our new Praise and Reward Policy, students can receive stamps/stickers in their planners, during lessons. Each lesson students can receive at least one stamp for following the classroom rules, with an additional two stamps on offer for going above and beyond. VMG tutors track the amount of stamps/stickers awarded. These can lead to a range of awards, including Bronze, Silver, Gold, Platinum and Diamond.

Thank you for your support in ensuring that your child is prepared for their learning with their planner, pencil case and required equipment. I would be grateful if you could check and sign your child's planner each week, to support your child in managing their time effectively and to communicate with their VMG tutor.

I would like to thank you in advance for your support.

Best wishes,  
Charlotte Clarke, Acting Academy Head



## KEY DATES

### **BTEC Music Night 80s**

Friday 23 November 2018  
7.00 – 9.00pm - Main Hall

### **Christmas Concert**

Thursday 13 December 2018  
7.00 – 9.00pm - , Main Hall

### **Break for Christmas Holidays**

Wednesday 19 December 2018

**Term Starts** - Monday 7 January 2019

### **KS4 Choices Evening**

Monday 14 January 2019

### **Year 8 Parents' Consultation Event and Options Evening**

Wednesday 16 January 2019  
4.00 - 7.00pm



## ATTENDANCE

There is a whole school Attendance Challenge from Monday 5 November to Wednesday 19 December.

Students are expected to be in school from 8:20am to start their VMG promptly at 8:30am. If you arrive late to school (after 8:30am) please make sure that you know how to get to the main school entrance as external gates are locked promptly.

Good school attendance is imperative to provide the tools you need to develop and learn. Research shows that even short breaks from school can reduce a students' chances of succeeding at school by as much as a quarter. This research, based on extensive student absence figures in both GCSE and primary school test results, highlights the importance of student's regular attendance at school in order to prepare them for the qualifications needed to succeed in modern Britain.

Time spent away from school, whether for a family holiday or minor illness, disrupts the structured school terms. Every day at school counts enormously for students but so does every consecutive day attended. Students need to absorb new facts and knowledge, acquire new skills and consolidate those skills before building further and progressing. It is for this reason we expect all students to aim for 100% attendance. However, there may be times when you have to miss school because you are too ill to attend. Therefore, we realistically expect a minimum attendance of 97% (in line with the national average). In order to achieve this, a student can only have a maximum of 5 days' absence in the whole academic year i.e. from 4 September 2018 until 18 July 2019

With regard to leave of absence during term time, Education Regulations state that applications for leave can only be authorised by the school in exceptional circumstances.

The following are examples of the criteria for leave of absence, which may be considered as 'exceptional':

- Service personnel returning from active deployment
- Where inflexibility of the parents' leave or working arrangement is part of the organisational or company policy. This would need to be evidenced by the production or confirmation from the organisation/company
- Where leave is recommended as part of a parent's or child's rehabilitation from medical or emotional problems. Evidence must be provided.
- When a family needs to spend time together to support each other during or after a crisis

**Please note:** A Principal or Headteacher would not be expected to class any term time holiday as exceptional



## School Uniform

### Compulsory School Uniform

- Harrogate High School jacket
- Harrogate High School trousers or skirt
- Harrogate High School clip-on tie
- Long or short sleeved Harrogate High School shirt
- Plain black socks
- Plain black shoes - no trainers, boots, pumps or other fabric shoes will be allowed

### Optional Harrogate High School Uniform

- Harrogate High School v-neck jumper
- Harrogate High School v-neck slip (tank top)

### Compulsory Items for PE Lessons

- Purple Harrogate High School polo shirt
- Plain black shorts/sports leggings or plain black tracksuit bottoms
- Black sports socks
- Supportive trainers (no canvas pumps)
- Black sports hoody

### Optional PE Uniform

Protective equipment is advised to be worn whilst students are taking part in rugby, football or hockey

- Gum shield
- Shin pads
- Football/Rugby boots

All items of school uniform are available from:  
Rawcliffes Schoolwear Centre: East Parade, Harrogate  
(Tel: 01423 504130). The shop is open from 9.00 to 5.30  
Monday to Saturday.

## Sports Leaders

Our sports leaders have been busy over the last few weeks helping out at our Primary Sports Partnerships events hosted here at Harrogate High School. The events that they have supported so far include: archery, cycling, cross country and sports hall athletics with students from years 1 - 6.

Without the support of our sports leaders, these events would be difficult to run. We really appreciate the time and effort that our sports leaders give to allow so many young people the opportunity to take part in a variety of different sports. They support Debbie Speed (Partnership Development Manager) with registering students, scoring, timing, and officiating the different sports. All of these skills help students to build confidence.

If your child is interested in becoming a sports leader, please ask them to speak to Mrs Wilson in the PE Department.

**PE kit** - All our students are required to wear the following to every PE lesson:

- A purple Harrogate High School t shirt, plain black shorts/sports leggings/track suit bottoms, black sports socks, supportive trainers (not canvas pumps) and black sports hoody.

If your child is ill or injured and wishes to be excused from the physical part of the lesson, they must bring a note written by a parent/guardian explaining the reason. They are still expected to bring their full PE kit as there are plenty of ways in which students can still take part in the lesson, avoiding the physical aspect of the lesson. A few examples of what a student may be asked to do:

- Coach a small group, offer feedback on a performance, manage equipment, score a game, umpire/referee a game, help with the choreography of a routine or complete a written task based on the lesson.

## Enrichment

There has been a great attendance at all clubs. Year 7 have been attending in high numbers to the fitness suite, basketball and netball clubs.

The PE team are looking to recruit more students to the Dodgeball Club on a Thursday and Badminton Club on a Friday. Remember these are free and all you need is your PE kit. It is a great opportunity to develop your skills, improve your fitness and to socialise with friends.



## The Scarborough Engineering Week

A group of students nominated for their excellent effort in Maths, Science and Technology were rewarded with a trip to the Spa Scarborough, to take part in a wide range of interactive STEM activities and workshops.

The event is designed to show how science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) can make a difference in the real world. It inspires students to consider the exciting opportunities that studying and working in STEM open up to them.

Students met employees from a range of STEM businesses including Sirius Minerals, McCain Foods, Firmac, Schneider Electric, Dale Power Solutions, Legrand, Electrox and Imagineering Foundation as well as higher education providers such as Derwent Training, Scarborough UTC and the University of Hull.



We congratulate Mrs Norman, who has been appointed as Joint Head of Physical Education, sharing leadership of the department with Mrs Wilson.

We have appointed Mr K Wilson as a Second in Mathematics, who starts in January.

## Go Ape!

LIVE LIFE ADVENTUROUSLY

Encouraging teamwork and adventure and inspiring the leaders of the future were just two of the many benefits the Prince's Trust students expected from their 'Go Ape' trip and this amazing trip didn't disappoint. The students had a great time navigating obstacles and swinging through the trees on zip-wires. Despite a few students (and staff) being apprehensive at first, all participants conquered their fears and completed the course, most even going on to the higher course. After lunch, team building activities were provided where the students had to work together to find a solution to various activities, before proceeding to the next task. As one student commented "This has been a day out that I'll never forget!"



On Tuesday 2 October all of Year 7 took part in a workshop called Bin It, all about recycling awareness. The workshop is from Mars Wrigley (Mars Bars and chewing gum) and will help Year 7 students to understand the effects of litter and how to improve our environment.



WE ARE MACMILLAN. CANCER SUPPORT

Thank you to all those who supported the coffee morning on Open Day for Macmillan Cancer Support. It was a great success raising

# £445.36

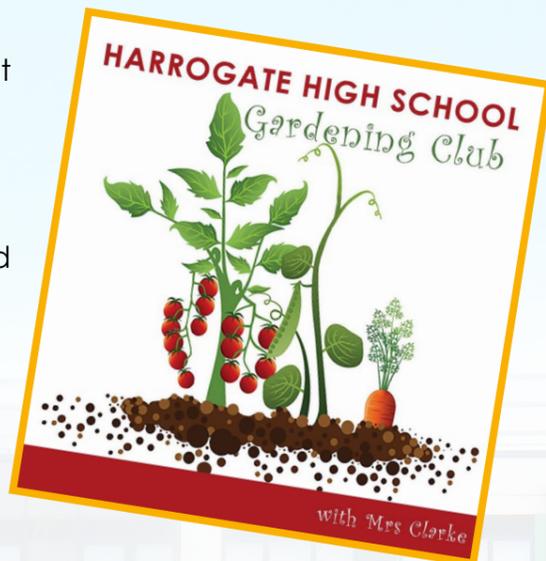


# Gardening Club

We are delighted to have launched a Gardening Club that runs each Thursday from 2.30-3.30pm. All students are welcome! The students and staff have been working hard to ensure an array of colour in the Spring, through bulb planting on the path leading to school. Future plans include; using recyclable material to create colourful raised beds in the school playground and designing a learning garden to ensure that sensory experiences become part of a student's day at school.

We are looking for parents and members of the community who can help us either practically, by sourcing materials, or fundraising.

If you are interested in helping please contact:  
**GardenProject@harrogatehighschool.co.uk**



# Drama

## Success at Shakespeare Schools Festival

On Monday 15 October, the Drama Department took a team of 16 students from Years 7 - 11 to the CarraigeWorks Theatre in Leeds to take part in a performance of Shakespeare's *The Tempest* as part of the Shakespeare Schools Festival.

Director and Head of Dance and Drama, Mrs Hastings said 'Taking part in the Shakespeare Schools Festival has become an annual event over the last two years. This year we gave students, of all ages, the opportunity to take part in this extra curricular club rehearsing twice a week since May, working on a condensed version of one of William Shakespeare's most challenging plays. The students were fantastic ambassadors for the school and the department giving a wonderful, slick and polished performance to a packed audience of over 400 people - I am very proud of them all!'

Congratulations to all the students who took part!





# Enrichment

## RETRO GAMING CLUB

Fridays 2.30- 3.30  
Open to all year groups.



### Monday

- Breakfast Club
- Seal Development
- Catch Up Club
- Tea and Talk
- KS4 Art Club
- Independent Learning
- History Intervention
- GCSE RE Intervention
- Fitness Suite
- Basketball
- Musical Legends Rehearsal
- Textiles Intervention
- RM & Hospitality Intervention

### Tuesday

- Breakfast Club
- Catch Up Club
- KS3 Art Club
- CIDA Enhancement
- Independent Learning
- Maths Independent Learning
- Netball
- KS4 Football
- Fitness Suite
- Choir
- Musical Legends Rehearsal
- Accelerated Science
- GCSE Science Revision

### Wednesday

- Breakfast Club
- Catch Up Club
- Independent Learning
- Jazz Band

### Thursday

- Breakfast Club
- Seal Development
- Catch Up Club
- Business Intervention
- Independent Learning
- LegoMania
- English Skills Master Class
- Humanities Intervention
- HSC Intervention
- French & Spanish Intervention
- Dodgeball
- KS3 Football
- Girls Football
- Junior Band
- Musical Legends Rehearsal
- RM & Hospitality Intervention
- Yr 10/11 Hospitality Intervention

### Friday

- Breakfast Club
- Retro Games Club
- Independent Learning Club
- History Intervention
- Badminton
- Fitness Suite
- School Of Rock

## COMMUNITY LETTINGS

### Mondays

Yorkshire Ballet Institute  
Harrogate Halos  
Zumba with Fernando Brazil  
UK Outdoor Fitness

### Tuesdays

HOPS Juniors  
Shotokan Karate Club  
T'ai Chi

### Wednesdays

Yorkshire Ballet Institute  
Harrogate Wheelchair Basketball  
Harrogate BC Athletic Club  
UK Outdoor Fitness

### Thursdays

Zumba with Fernando Brazil  
Harrogate Harriers  
Yorkshire Ballet Institute  
Baladi Bazaar Belly Dancing

### Fridays

Shotokan Karate Club  
Yorkshire Ballet Institute  
Harrogate Healthcare

### Saturdays

Yorkshire Ballet Institute  
Shotokan Karate Club  
Saturday School of Polish  
UK Outdoor Fitness

### Sundays

Harrogate and District Netball League