



HARROGATE HIGH SCHOOL

A snapshot of the school



Harrogate High School is a rapidly improving vibrant secondary school working in partnership with a National Leader in Education with approximately 750 students on roll including 150 in the Sixth Form. Our school mantra of 'Students First' puts the students at the heart of everything we do and reflects the philosophy by which we work. Our belief is that education is about improving young people's life chances.

Examination results in 2011 saw 97.4% of students attain the equivalence of 5 or more A*- C GCSE's. This represents an increase of 54% from the previous two years. In 2011 Harrogate High School was named as one of the top 5 most improved Specialist Sports schools. Our aim this year is to build on our outstanding achievements and continue to raise attainment in the key subjects of English and Mathematics. This position will play a significant part in our future development.

Sports College Specialist Status

In July 2004 we were awarded Sports College Specialist status and last year we were successful in achieving re-designation. Physical Education/Sport and Mathematics. PE and Sport are integral to our school curriculum and are an effective means for developing a wide range of learning and teaching opportunities for all. As the regional focal point for excellence in PE and Community Sport we host the Schools Sports Partnership, which extends links between our partner primary schools and the wider community.

Learning and Teaching

The quality of Learning and Teaching is central to the raising of achievement of our students. All teachers in every subject follow 5 part lesson plans, Lesson Outcomes, Starter activity, Engager, Demonstrating and Plenary. These are planned electronically and allow teachers to deliver lessons using supportive ICT such as interactive whiteboards. Teachers are encouraged to be innovative in their lessons and to share good practice with other teachers, departments and schools.

Professional Development Time

Each Wednesday from 2:45 to 4:45 throughout the year, staff follow a carefully structured programme of professional development, either in departments or as a whole staff. Key areas such as Assessment for Learning, Performance Management, Standardisation of work and Intervention for Impact aim to support our staff in order for them to consistently deliver outstanding lessons and be at the forefront of development.

Curriculum Development

We are committed to providing high standards of education for students. Our curriculum is therefore designed to give all students every opportunity to make full use of their skills, qualities and attributes to prepare them effectively for the future.

Our innovative vertical curriculum, centered on a 2 year Key Stage 3 and a 3 year Key Stage 4, personalises the learning of all students. It provides programmes of learning which suit the learning styles of individual students, allowing flexibility to meet the needs of each student. Fast-track opportunities and workshops provide accelerated routes for some students, while others have the time to succeed with an extended Key Stage 4. We want to ensure that all students are supported to achieve their full potential.

We believe this 'Stage not Age' initiative will provide opportunities for all our students, offering them a broad and balanced approach to learning whilst ensuring relevance, challenge, progression and continuity in all its structured activities. Vocational, practical, creative and academic qualities are valued equally in the school where we really do embrace the 'Every Child Matters' agenda.

Vertical Mentor Groups

With our flexible and accessible curriculum, Vertical Mentor Groups are crucial in giving students the opportunity to make valued and coherent choices, work as part of a unit and develop life skills. Each VMG has students ranging from Year 7 to Year 13, a Vertical Mentor who is a member of the teaching staff and an Associate Mentor who, in most cases, is a Sixth Form student trained in house for the role. They meet for a fifteen minute session each day which is structured and purposeful, incorporating focused activities such as peer mentoring and learning conversations.

Student progress and welfare

Our 'Praising Stars©' system rigorously monitors the progress of each student, measured against national benchmarks. Parents/carers are provided with accurate progress information six times each year. It enables us to continually monitor each individual student and intervene quickly to support students, if required, in order to get them back on track. All intervention strategies are designed to have real impact on the attainment of students. It also gives us an opportunity to recognise and celebrate achievement, something we want to do at every opportunity.

A dedicated team of six Learning Managers, who are not teachers, play a vital role in the monitoring of the students in their year group as well as looking after their general welfare. They are the first point of contact for any parent/carer who has any concerns about their child.

Sixth Form

Harrogate High School has its own Sixth Form Centre which includes a study room, common room, cafeteria, teaching rooms and ICT facilities. There are many opportunities for students to develop a wide range of extra-curricular experiences including charity work, volunteering, leadership skills, sport and music. Students are challenged to do well and are supported by an experienced team of staff. Our outstanding results at GCSE have meant a significant increase in the number of students staying in the Sixth Form. The majority of our Sixth Formers progress to university.

Student Voice

Nearly 25% of our students are actively involved in the running of the school through 'Student Voice'. Their roles as mentors, guides, members of interview panels and researchers have had a massive impact. Members of our Student Voice spoke on the main stage at the SSAT National Conference. They play an essential role in our Primary Partner Schools working with the next generations of Harrogate High School students. Their reputation continues to grow and the work they are doing within the family of schools is both exciting and ground breaking.

A range of experiences

Life at Harrogate High School extends well beyond the classroom. There is a wealth of cultural, sporting and other experiences and challenges for students who wish to take part in activities after school. Last year a group of Year 13 students visited Ghana to work in an orphanage and primary school near Accra.

We are extremely proud of our Concert Band which has an outstanding reputation and a busy programme of events, including overseas tours to Europe. Drama, dance, sport and many other department revision sessions regularly take place after school. There is something for everyone.

Our students are involved with charity work and on a regular basis donations are made to local and national organisations.

It is an exciting time for us at Harrogate High School as the school moves forward with a determination to be the best we can possibly be for our students.