

HARROGATE LADIES' COLLEGE. **SIXTH FORM**



Since 1893



A NEW ERA

We believe that Sixth Form is the most exciting time in a student's life: a new era marked by significant development both academically and socially. A time of growing independence and yet also a time when expert support, guidance and advice are needed more than ever by both pupils and parents.

Life in our Sixth Form is different from the rest of our school, bridging the gap as it does between school and university. Academically students are encouraged to work, think and study more independently. They have a little more freedom and have access to a host of new opportunities and experiences.

Whilst very much being integrated in the day to day life of the main school, our Sixth Form students have the added benefit of their own dedicated Sixth Form Centre with access to new facilities such as the Sixth Form Café, Sixth Form Common Room, Sixth Form Dining Room and Sixth Form Games Room. Each of our Sixth Form pupils also has an allocated Sixth Form Study room to support a more independent way of learning.

As a school with boarding facilities, all pupils including our Sixth Form day pupils have the option to board either regularly or occasionally in order to further develop independence.



Harrogate Ladies' College has been leading the way in educating inspirational women for the last 125 years. We aim to inspire the next generation of women to be brave, to be bold, to challenge perceptions and to realise that anything is possible with hard work, determination and perseverance.



NEW WAYS OF LEARNING

We believe that the step from GCSE to A level marks a new and exciting academic era for students, a time for discovering new depths of knowledge and developing new styles of learning.



A levels are understandably, more rigorous and challenging than GCSEs, however our class sizes are relatively small, typically just 5-10 students. This means our students benefit from individual support from our highly qualified teachers to help meet the challenges of A levels and to achieve the very best results they can.

Teaching at A level is often via tutorial style classes where in-depth discussion is encouraged. Students begin to learn more independently and undertake individual research outside of the classroom.

This new way of learning is a big change from GCSEs, but it is an approach that our Sixth Form staff are experienced in supporting. In addition to specialist subject teachers, each student is also assigned a Sixth Form Tutor, whose role is more akin to that of a university tutor and who actively supports the student's academic, personal and career development.



A LEVEL SUBJECT CHOICE

We offer a wide and diverse range of subjects at A level to meet the needs of our pupils. We believe that subject choice is a key factor in A level success. Learning at this level becomes more focused and in-depth and we encourage pupils to choose subjects they enjoy, are stimulated by, and which suit their individual learning styles. Full details of the A level subjects available, outline curricula and exam boards can be found in our Sixth Form Curriculum booklet.

EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION

As part of our Sixth Form curriculum we also offer students the opportunity to undertake an Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) alongside their A level subjects. The EPQ is a qualification which is equivalent to half an A level and provides students with the freedom to undertake in-depth research on a subject of their choice, similar to a University dissertation. It enables students to work independently, to develop the research and analysis skills that Universities really value, and to explore a subject which truly inspires them. The EPQ is designed to enrich the learning journey, increase students' academic portfolio, and enhance University opportunities.

The Sixth Form curriculum at Harrogate Ladies' College is challenging, stimulating and rewarding. We aim to inspire and nurture students so that they go on to the next stage in their lives equipped with the best possible qualifications and a passion for learning that will last them a lifetime.



An important part of our role at Harrogate Ladies' College Sixth Form is to prepare students for the next stage in their lives.

The first step for many students will be to understand what options lie ahead of them. With this in mind we run a comprehensive careers programme including weekly careers talks from leading professionals providing insight into different career paths and valuable advice on how to get into them. We also run work experience programmes and careers fairs to inform and inspire students about the options open to them.

For the majority of our students, the next step will be University. The university application process is complex and highly competitive. Students and parents alike need expert, individual advice to navigate this process successfully. That's why we work closely with each individual student to help them to secure a place at the right University, on the right course for them.

Our Sixth Form staff have expert knowledge of UK and international universities and understand what different universities are looking for in prospective students.

They work with our Sixth Formers and their parents to help them identify courses and prepare tailored personal statements.

We advise students on the additional reading and activities they need to pursue beyond the A level syllabus, known to universities as 'Supercurricular Activities', such as MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses). These are the things that help students to stand out during the university application process and help them to secure their preferred university place.

Our on-going university preparation programme includes university trips and hosted events such as the World Class Study in London event (attended by UCL, Imperial LSE and Kings College) and the Overseas University Fair (attended by 25 universities from around the world including US, Canada and Australia).



MEDICINE RELATED DEGREE SUPPORT

For students looking to pursue careers in Medicine, Dentistry or Veterinary Science we have a dedicated early preparation programme to help them to understand the application process; organise relevant work experience; and practise BMAT and UKCAT tests.

OXBRIDGE SUPPORT

For students hoping to gain a place at either Oxford or Cambridge University, we have a dedicated Oxbridge Preparation Programme which provides support and advice specifically aimed at these universities. As well as organised trips to both universities (including an Admissions workshop with university staff), the programme also offers weekly tutorials with subject specialists and an opportunity to meet with pupils currently studying at Oxford and Cambridge to gain an insight into life within these world renowned educational establishments.

To support our Sixth Form students, we've invested in a specialist software platform called Unifrog which is designed to help with the end to end university application process from subject choice through to application.

We work with all students on a one to one basis to help them to prepare for University interviews and conduct mock interviews with our Principal; senior members of staff; and other internal and external experts.

The move to university is a big step socially and emotionally. Preparing for University therefore isn't just about securing a place, it's about preparing for a new, more independent way of life. We run a university preparation programme that provides practical help and advice on adapting to life as a university student and



covers areas such as managing money; cooking on a budget; alcohol awareness; personal safety and even basic DIY! We also believe that we have a responsibility to help prepare our students emotionally for life at university and our Wellness Programme is designed to help students to develop strategies for coping with stress and anxiety.

"It was always my dream to go to Cambridge. My Sixth Form teachers helped me believe that I could achieve that dream and supported me all of the way."

Nicole Brocksom

Former Head of Choir went on to study Law at Girton College Cambridge



NEW EXPERIENCES, NEW OPPORTUNITIES

We believe that Sixth Form should give students the opportunity to grow personally as well as academically. To be brave; to discover their strengths; to build resilience; to take on new challenges; to experience new things; and to explore new opportunities.

From the inspirational colour and light of Venice, and the thought provoking atmosphere of Auschwitz, to the physically and mentally challenging Gold Duke of Edinburgh expedition; our Sixth Form students have a host of trips and activities available to them which aren't available to other pupils in the school, each one designed to encourage their personal development and help build their independence.

Our Sixth Form students also have the opportunity to take on new and exciting leadership roles within school from Head Girl, Prefects and House Captains, to Sports Captains and Head of Choir. These roles are highly respected within school and help students to develop skills and experiences which are recognised and valued by universities and employers.

Our vibrant Sixth Form community enjoys many informal social events as well as slightly more formal occasions such as Sixth Form Dinners, the Sixth Form Leavers Lunch and the highlight of the year which is the annual Sixth Form Ball. These shared social experiences, together with our Annual Speech Day, are important to us and help to build lifelong memories of life at Harrogate Ladies' College Sixth Form.



A **NEW** NETWORK OF PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT

Being part of our Sixth Form community doesn't end after 2 years of A level study. Our former students will always be part of our wider school community and always supported by our staff.

Once students leave they also join our alumnae association giving them access to our network of over 3,000 former pupils some now studying at university and others who are now leading professionals in their chosen careers.

These lifelong connections both with the school and with our other alumnae, mean that our students continue to benefit from support, guidance and mentoring way beyond Sixth Form as they go out to take on the world on their own terms.



Professor Catherine Jackson, Executive Dean, Faculty of Clinical & Biomedical Sciences and Head of School of Medicine, University of Central Lancashire



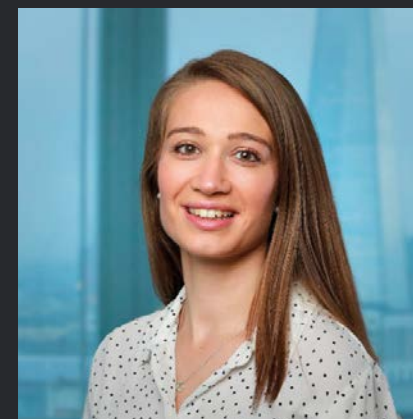
Maisie Axon, former Head Girl, 1st Class Hons from Durham University



Cokie van der Velde, Barclays Women of the Year Award winner



Professor Sarah Thompson, Head of Physics, University of York



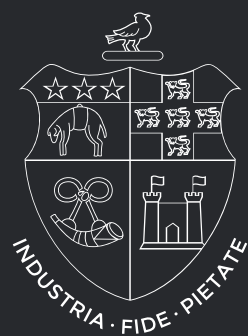
Rebecca Bentley, Consulting Manager at Accenture



Baroness McIntosh of Pickering, Member of the House of Lords



Grace Caton, former Head Girl, studies Opera and Singing at the Royal Northern College of Music



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Sixth Form

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Since 1893