

# Welcome

## Year 8 Information Evening





# Head of Year Overview

- - Tutor time schedule
- - Opportunities & enrichment
- - Role models for Year 7
- - Caythorpe Court
- - Online safety
- - Communication



# Head of Year Overview

Who to contact ([admin@hgs.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@hgs.herts.sch.uk))

- Subject teachers/Heads of Department
- Head of Year - Katharine Rowe
- Form Tutors

8A – Mr Gregory

8B – Mr Adams/Mr Balfe

8C – Mrs Kirtland

8F – Ms Burnham

8J - Miss Pedge

8P - Ms Winters/Mrs Hart

8R - Mr Mason

8T - Ms Wood



# Year 8 Curriculum

- Year 8 is about beginning to deepen the understanding of learning that took place in Year 6 and Year 7 but also focus on some selected topics to hone which areas are of most interest to them as they approach the Year 9 Options process next year.
- Into Year 8 students have had an opportunity to focus their interests on particular subjects and cease to study others - each of them is studying their two selected option subjects. We feel this is a vital aspect of beginning to mature and understand where they most enjoy learning. Into Year 9 this will then reduce to one selected option - a choice to be made at Easter this year.



# How we will support your child in Year 8

- Provide a rich and engaging learning experience
- Provide extra-curricular activities such as clubs, visits and activities to enrich their studies
- Develop study and work skills that will support them in the years to come
- Signpost towards resources such as free tools, apps and eventually revision guides
- Provide opportunities for student leadership to further broaden their perspective
- Encourage debate and a curiosity for learning
- Manage their workload and support their physical and emotional wellbeing



# How you can support your child in Year 8?

- Take an active interest in their studies
- Enrich their learning with conversations that might relate to areas of study, i.e. news stories
- Keep an eye on what is being studied presently so that you can play an active role
- Support and communicate regularly with your child's teachers
- Regularly log into Go4Schools and attend virtual consultation evenings
- Give your child a safe and quiet work space that they can use - try not to tidy it!
- Support them to have appropriate 'down time' and manage their time effectively



# Where can I find out more?

## Your Biology Journey

**Further & Higher Education**  
A Level Biology is an excellent base for a university degree in healthcare, such as medicine, veterinary or dentistry, as well as the biological sciences, such as biochemistry, molecular biology or forensic science. Biology can also complement sports science, psychology, sociology and many more.

**Careers**  
A Level Biology can open up a range of career opportunities including: biological research, medical, environmental, forensics, sports and science communication. The transferable skills you will learn, such as problem solving, are also useful for many other areas, such as law.

**Year 7**  
Cells and Reproduction  
Chemicals: Acids & Bases

**Year 8**  
Cells and Tissues  
Chemistry: Particles, Model  
Biology: Food & Digestion  
Physics: Heat

**Year 9**  
Cells and Tissues  
Chemistry: Types of Reactions  
Physics: Heat  
Biology: Plants & Enzymes

**Year 10**  
Cells and Tissues  
Chemistry: Bonding and Structure  
Physics: Light Waves  
Biology: DNA, Enzymes

## Your Music Journey

**Further & Higher Education**  
Music can be studied in many different forms - some courses cover lots of different musical skills, whereas others focus specifically on one area such as composing or appraising. You can choose to study particular genres of music such as pop or classical. Many courses focus on music technology or sound production which overlaps with the music industry.

**Careers**  
Music may lead you to a career in or as: a performer, composer, song writer, sound engineering, live events production, stage management, journalism, media and communication, music management, teaching, music therapist or as a community musician.

**Year 7**  
Find Your Voice  
Experimental Music

**Year 8**  
Musical Elements & Instruments  
Rhythm and Meter

**Year 9**  
Musical Theatre  
Musical Forms: Over Versions

**Year 10**  
Instrumental Music: (Piano - Solo)  
Verse Music (Pop/Rock - Music For a While, Queen - Killer Queen)  
Stage and Screen (Debutant - Victoria Street, Williams - Star Wars)  
Desomb

## Your Technology Journey

**Further & Higher Education**  
Studying any Technology at A Level can lead to a wide range of degree course and apprenticeships including: BA & BSc courses in Industrial Design and Product Design, Furniture Design, Graphic Design, Fashion Illustration & Communication, Fashion Promotion & Branding, Sustainable Fashion, Fashion Design and digital design. You can also study Civil, Mechanical, Aerospace, Naval and Electrical engineering at degree level. You could also study Fashion Buying or Merchandising as an apprenticeship.

**Careers**  
As well as studying at university, there are a range of apprenticeships and careers you can go into which include: Engineer, Product Designer, Graphic Designer, Fabric & Surface Designer, Garment Technologist, Stylist, Fashion Buyer, Brand Director, Mechanic, Plumber, Carpenter, Electrician, Architect, Service Engineer, Aviation mechanic, Furniture maker, Tailor, Boatwrights, Barbecue, Costume performer, technician and many more.

**Year 7**  
Product Design - Photo Frame  
Wood of Timbers & Manufacture  
Bread, Using CAD/CAM, Baking workshop skills

**Year 8**  
Food & Nutrition - Basic Skills  
variety of practicals undertaken to enhance basic, bread skills and use of the hob, oven and grill

**Year 9**  
Food & Nutrition - Advanced  
basic skills, health and safety and presentation

**Year 10**  
NEA - Section B & C: Developing a design brief & Specification and Generating design ideas  
NEA - Section A: Identifying & Investigating Design Possibilities  
Mock NEA - Practising Researching and Designing  
NEA Skills Projects - Practised & Technological practice



# Year 8 Assessment and Reporting Calendar

At any point during your child's education at HGS, you can log into Go4Schools to monitor their most recent assessments in each subject. In addition, you will receive two reports that detail their engagement with learning along with tips on what they could do to improve this. More information on these will be shared in a letter next week along with details on a new model for reporting progress.

1. Initial EwL	wc 11/12/24
2. EwL with tutor comment	wc 08/07/25



<b>Excelling</b>	Consistently performs above expected levels.
<b>Advancing</b>	Displays assured understanding and higher-level proficiency.
<b>Secure</b>	Demonstrates a firm grasp of the curriculum
<b>Developing</b>	

Y7 - Biology: Cells	Y7 - Biology: Reproduction	Y7 - Chemistry: Acids and Bases	Y7 - Chemistry: Particle Theory	Y7 - Physics: Forces	Y7 - Physics: Electricity	Y7 - Biology: End of Year Exam 2024	Y7 - Chemistry: End of Year Exam 2024	Y7 - Physics: End of Year Exam 2024
Excelling	Advancing	Excelling	Advancing	Advancing	Advancing	Excelling	Advancing	Secure



#### Excelling

- Pupils at this level remember all topic specific vocabulary and are able to apply it confidently from memory when writing and speaking in the target language. Communication is always clear.
- Pupils at this level are confident in using the present tense and in using key near future phrases and can create work using these tenses with a wide variety of verbs.
- Pupils at this level can evaluate texts that they read and hear to very accurately answer questions about details and gist.
- Pupils at this level can apply successfully a wide range of connectives, quantifiers, qualifiers and opinions to create/evaluate extended pieces of work.
- Pupils at this level ask insightful questions about topics and can work independently for extended periods on areas of personal interest.

#### Listening, Speaking, Reading

- sentences with familiar verbs with support.
- Pupils at this level can evaluate short texts that they read and hear to answer simple questions about details and gist.
  - Pupils at this level can apply some connectives, quantifiers, qualifiers and opinions to

success, using these tenses with familiar verbs.

- Pupils at this level can evaluate texts that they read and hear to answer questions with some success about details and gist.
- Pupils at this level begin to apply some connectives, quantifiers, qualifiers and opinions to create / evaluate short pieces of work.
- Pupils at this level ask simple questions about topics and can work independently on areas of personal interest.

- Pupils at this level can often evaluate texts that they read and hear to answer questions about detail and gist with a good level of accuracy.

- Pupils at this level can apply successfully a good range of connectives, quantifiers, qualifiers and opinions to create/evaluate extended pieces of work.
- Pupils at this level ask more detailed questions about topics and can work independently for sustained periods on areas of personal interest.



# Year 8 Consultation Evening (virtual)

**Wednesday 30th April 2025**



# Thrive and Fly

This is the term we use to describe our academic interventions programme.

**Thrive and Fly** sessions aim to support those young people who, for whatever reason, are not currently achieving their full potential in school.



***‘To improve life chances and outcomes, especially for those who are struggling to fly’***



# Thrive and Fly

Our key focus is on supporting those students whose reading ages are significantly below their expected chronological age or whose key numeracy skills are significantly lower than age related expectations. By helping them to build these core skills and develop the confidence and understanding as to how to apply them, they will be better able to access ***all aspects of their curriculum and their learning and in so doing - Thrive and Fly.***

*‘To unlock in them the thing that is currently keeping them stuck.’*



**YEAR 7 LITERACY GOLD, READING FLUENCY PROJECT & LEXIA**

Qualified English specialists build on students' existing skills through intensive small group support sessions. Students receive a 'best fit' reading list that is selected for their age. Supplemental plans using cross-curricular texts support students to engage with the English specialist's support. Progress is monitored by the English specialist and Lexia.

Intervention sessions are held. This support builds on the foundation of skills acquired in primary school and supports students to reach secondary secondary school standards.

**YEAR 8 LITERACY GOLD, READING FLUENCY PROJECT & LEXIA**

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Intervention sessions are held. This support builds on the foundation of skills acquired in primary school and supports students to reach secondary secondary school standards.

**YEAR 9 LITERACY GOLD, READING FLUENCY PROJECT & LEXIA**

Qualified English specialists build on students' existing skills through intensive small group support sessions. Students receive a 'best fit' reading list that is selected for their age. Supplemental plans using cross-curricular texts support students to engage with the English specialist's support. Progress is monitored by the English specialist and Lexia.

Intervention sessions are held. This support builds on the foundation of skills acquired in primary school and supports students to reach secondary secondary school standards.

**YEAR 10 TARGETED SUPPORT**

Students following the green GCSE route receive up to 10 additional hours per fortnight in small group and 1:1 sessions. Support is provided to students who are struggling to reach the required standard for their GCSE. Support is provided to students who are struggling to reach the required standard for their GCSE. Support is provided to students who are struggling to reach the required standard for their GCSE.

**YEAR 11 TARGETED SUPPORT**

Students following the green GCSE route receive up to 10 additional hours per fortnight in small group and 1:1 sessions. Support is provided to students who are struggling to reach the required standard for their GCSE. Support is provided to students who are struggling to reach the required standard for their GCSE. Support is provided to students who are struggling to reach the required standard for their GCSE.

- A range of specialist staff will work with these students in a bespoke way to tailor support to best suit their needs; this will be in small group sessions (max 6 students).
- The support these students receive in Year 7 is the first part of a journey of support that is available at HGS.



**YEAR 7 TIMES TABLE CLUB, TT ROCKSTARS, MATHS CLUB, SIXTH FORM AMBASSADORS**

- Specialist Maths intervention support available with the following students:
- Any student identified with numeracy gaps below the age-related expectations in Times and Multiplication in either Y1 or Year 7 group.
- Students who are struggling to reach the required standard for their GCSE.
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# Who will lead Thrive and Fly sessions?

## **Specialist English Intervention tutors:**

Miss Walker and Mrs McDonald

## **Specialist teachers:**

Mrs Noble - Specialist LSA

Mrs Batchelor - Head of English



# Who will lead Thrive and Fly sessions?

## **Specialist Numeracy/Maths Intervention tutors:**

Miss Gregory and Mrs Bridge

## **Specialist teachers:**

Mrs Kirtland - Maths lead on Pupil Premium Intervention

Mr Alison - Head of Maths





“You can't go back and  
change the beginning,  
but you can start  
where you are and  
change the ending.”

— C.S. Lewis



# Attendance

**‘Attend today, Achieve tomorrow’**

The importance of good attendance for your child



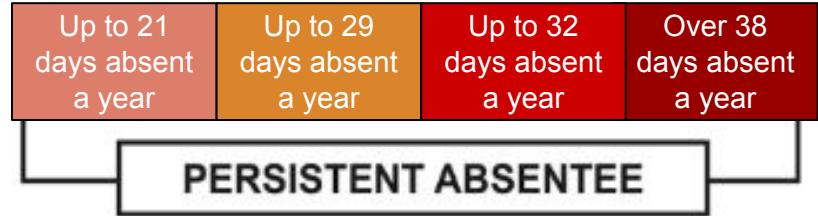
# ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Exceptional attendance for all = 97%+ daily attendance

## Attend today, Achieve tomorrow



Attendance impacts of academic outcomes, the **more** school students miss, the **less** likely they are to achieve their potential.



## Which CIRCLE is your child in?



# Attendance

90% attendance over 5 years = half a year of schooling missed.

80% attendance over 5 years = a whole year missed.

Improving attendance will help students to achieve their potential as days missed will always mean lost learning.



# Attendance

National data and our historical data shows that students who have attendance above 90% make better progress and achieve better GCSE outcomes than those whose attendance is below 90%.

- In **2024** GCSE results at HGS, students with an attendance above 90% on average achieved or exceeded their target grade with a **progress value of 0.91 in each subject**.
- At 97-100% attendance this increased to an **average of 1.11 grades** above their target in each subject.
- Those that were sub 80% attendance on average missed their target grades by **-1.43 grades in each subject**.

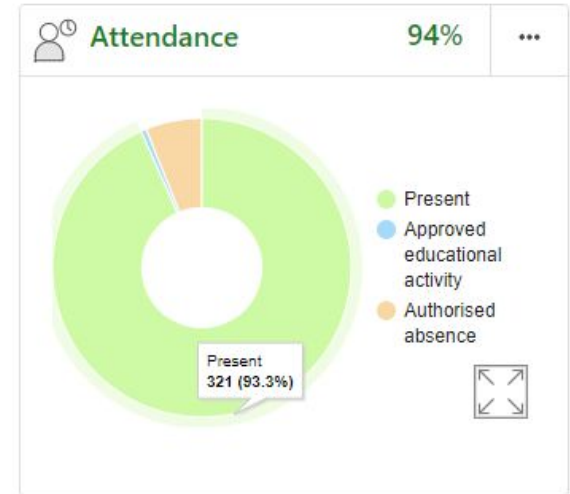


# Attendance - Go4Schools



Your child's attendance will be visible this year.

You will be able to check your child's attendance by using your parental login for Go4Schools.



# Absence during term time

- Absence from school can only be authorised in **'exceptional'** circumstances and must be requested in advance.
- Penalty Notice Fines will be considered when there has been 10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a 10 week period. This is the equivalent of 5 school days.
- Holidays are highly unlikely to be deemed 'exceptional' circumstances and therefore will be unauthorised, with the likelihood of a penalty fine being issued for a week's holiday.



## Working together to improve school attendance

Statutory guidance for maintained schools, academies, independent schools and local authorities

August 2024

# Unauthorised absence

- **First Offence** - £160 per parent per child, reduced to £80 per parent per child if paid within 28 days.
- **Second offence (within 3 years)** - £160 per parent per child to be paid within 28 days.
- **Third or further offences (within 3 years)** - a penalty notice is not issued but the case will be presented to the **Magistrate's Court by Hertfordshire**. Fine up to **£2500** per parent per child



## PENALTY NOTICE FINES FOR SCHOOL ATTENDANCE IS CHANGING

1

### FIRST OFFENCE

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance the amount will be:

£160 per parent, per child if paid within 28 days  
Reduced to £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days.

2

### SECOND OFFENCE (WITHIN 3 YEARS)

The second time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance the amount will be:

£160 per parent, per child to be paid within 28 days. No reduced rate will be offered.

The following changes will come into force for Penalty Notice Fines issued after **19th August 2024**.

3

### THIRD OFFENCE AND ANY FURTHER OFFENCES (WITHIN 3 YEARS)

The third time an offence is committed for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance a Penalty Notice will not be issued, and the case will be presented straight to the Magistrates' Court. Magistrates' fines can be up to £2500 per parent, per child.

Cases found guilty in Magistrates' Court can show on a Parents future DBS certificate, due to failure to safeguard a child's education.

### 10 SESSIONS (5 DAYS) OF UNAUTHORISED ABSENCE IN A 10-WEEK PERIOD

Penalty Notice Fines will be considered when there has been 10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a 10-week period.

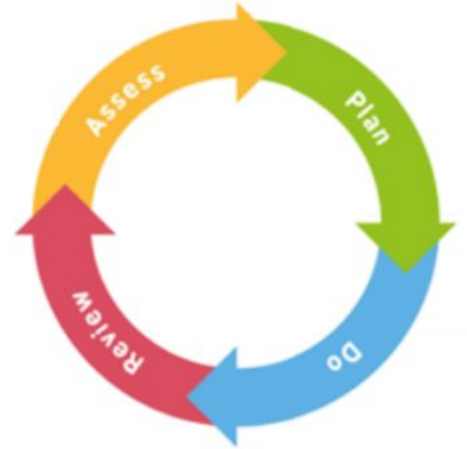


# SEND Support

## Key contacts:

- Mrs Cole = Assistant Headteacher and SENCO
- Miss Lennon = Assistant SENCO
- Mrs Virdee = Inclusion Administrator

If you have any concerns about your child's learning, please contact the team so we can work with you to establish a plan to support them.



# SEND Support

## SEND interventions

There are 9 LSAs at HGS. They will work in the classroom with some students and also deliver a range of interventions which take place during registration, at lunch and in exceptional circumstances, during lessons.

The team runs homework club every lunch time.



# Access Arrangements

The Learning Support Department and the Exams team work together to ensure that students receive access arrangements in line with JCQ regulations.

## Key things to note:

- To receive access arrangements, this must be the students normal way of learning.
- Evidence must be provided of need from teaching staff.
- Medical evidence may need to be provided.
- Testing cannot take place prior to year 9.



# Caythorpe Court

Wednesday 9th October - Friday 11th October





# YEAR 8 RESIDENTIAL

# CAYTHORPE COURT





# GIANT SWING



# CHALLENGE COURSE







# ABSEILING



# CLIMBING



# ARCHERY



# TRAPEZE





# RAFT BUILDING



# PADDLE BOARDING



# SENSORY TRAIL





# ZIP WIRE





# Thank you

Year 8 Information Evening

