



HECKMONDWIKE

GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Our Values

Respect
Responsibility
Excellence

“Secondary
School of
the Year
2024”

THE SUNDAY
TIMES PARENT
POWER GUIDE



PROSPECTUS
2025



HGS is a very diverse school with people from different cultures and religions. It provides us with huge support when needed and the teachers are very kind and helpful. The homework they provide us with helps the way we learn and if we missed a lesson then they help us to catch up. It is great to learn at HGS.

YEAR 7 STUDENT



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Welcome from the Headteacher

It is my absolute pleasure and privilege to welcome you to Heckmondwike Grammar School. We have a long tradition, dating back to 1898, of providing a first-class education for our students. To this day, we have maintained the school's traditional values of our motto Nil Sine Labore – Nothing Without Work – and there is an expectation that we all do our absolute best to ensure the success of our students.

I am an old scholar of the school myself, and four generations of my family have attended the school, including my two children, who benefitted enormously from seven years of exceptional support and guidance. Indeed, a number of staff either attended the school themselves or their children do now and this is a mark of how good we believe the school is.

Typical life at Heckmondwike for a student is very busy, with so much on offer, from the highly engaging lessons taught in excellent facilities, to a plethora of extra-curricular activities centred around the highly competitive and popular House system. To this end, we expect a lot

from our students and they uphold the philosophy of the more they put in to school life, the more they will get out of it.

We firmly believe that once a Heckmondwike student, always a Heckmondwike student and we strive to look after our 'family' well beyond the age of 18. Indeed, we have a thriving group of alumni who frequently support the school both financially and by working with our current students.

As a result of the opportunities provided at HGS, our students go on to become highly successful in very high calibre professions, typically making a profound contribution to society and so the legacy of the school continues for many generations to come.

I look forward to welcoming you to the school.

Peter Roberts
Headteacher

Our students are happy, feel very well supported and looked after and greatly enjoy their seven years with us.



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Welcome from the Head of Year

In a typical year, our students come from over 100 different primary schools. Choosing a school where you might be the first amongst your friends and family to make this step is a big decision.

We are proud of the way we welcome new students to our school community and help them settle into their life at Heckmondwike Grammar School.

All our students belong to a form, led by a form tutor who is the person they see daily and is their first point of contact in school.

An integral part of the transition process is to meet and nurture the next generation of Heckmondwike Grammar School students.

In a typical year, our students come from over 100 primary schools. Choosing a school where you might be the first amongst your friends and family to make this step is a big decision.

By communicating with our students, parents and their primary school teachers, we can ensure that all the necessary information is gathered to make the transition to life at HGS run as smoothly as possible.

Meeting students during the transition phase, be it in their primary school or during the transition days at Heckmondwike, gives us the opportunity to start building positive relationships to make them feel at ease right away. This advocacy continues into September and beyond, enabling students to fully participate and access our way of life. The aim is to promote the ethos and values of the school which in turn generates a desire to participate in and contribute to all areas of school life. This will help students achieve their potential and enjoy their secondary school experience.


I look forward to meeting and welcoming students to our school community and representing them as Head of Year.

Mrs Catherine Power
Head of Year 7 2024-2025



I really enjoy being at HGS. The lessons are academically challenging but very enjoyable. There is a wide selection of extracurricular activities and clubs that are creative, academic and physical, such as girls football and art. There is a good pastoral service that is there to support every pupil if needed. Pupils look after and respect each other and form great friendships here..

YEAR 8 STUDENT



My years at HGS have been the best of my life. I have grown academically but also as a person - the school has encouraged me to pursue interests outside of the school curriculum. I have engaged in extracurricular and house activities, which give the school a real community feel. Everyone supports each other and it's a really positive environment.

YEAR 9 STUDENT



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The Curriculum

An exciting and broad-ranging curriculum is crucial in engaging the most enquiring of minds.

Our curriculum provides the body of knowledge, skills and attitudes relevant to the high ability students who attend Heckmondwike Grammar School. Our students develop their capacity for applying this knowledge in future life so that they are fully prepared for the challenges in further and higher education, work and leisure.

Key Stage 3 (Years 7 & 8)

Students follow a curriculum of English, maths, biology, physics, chemistry (taught as coordinated science in Year 7), physical education, religious education, geography, history, technology, Spanish or French, drama, music, art, computer science and personal social and health education (PSHE).

Key Stage 4 (Years 9 – 11)

Midway through Year 8, students choose 4 GCSE option subjects to complement the compulsory subjects of English language and literature, mathematics, biology, chemistry and physics, core religious education, core physical education and PSHE. GCSEs are taught in all subjects over 3 years from Year 9 to Year 11.

The option subjects on offer to study to GCSE include: art and design,

business, computer science, drama, food preparation and nutrition, French, geography, design technology, graphics, history, music, physical education, religious education, design technology resistant materials and Spanish.

Key Stage 5 (Years 12 – 13)

The vast majority of our students choose to continue with us post-16, accessing a wide breadth of A level options with enrichment electives & PSHE. Due to strong results, progression from here to a range of top universities and apprenticeships is the norm, and our students move on to high calibre careers in all sectors.

Outcomes

Our students arrive with us in Year 7 having done very well at their primary schools. Despite this, not only is the expected achievement very high, but progress is also outstanding. Year on year, GCSE results put Heckmondwike Grammar School in the top 5% of schools. From nearly 6000 schools across England, HGS is placed firmly in the top 200. An outstanding achievement which has resulted in us being named “Secondary School of the Year” in the North in the 2024 Sunday Times Parent Power Guide.



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Transition & Student Support

Preparation for a successful start at Heckmondwike Grammar School begins in the March before students arrive in September and continues throughout their first half-term. The process is led by the Head of Year for Year 7 and is designed to ensure that our new students and their parents have as smooth a transition from primary school as possible.

In addition to supporting students starting school in September, we have set aside two transition days which will take place in July.

These two days provide an opportunity for new students to meet with their class and form tutor, find their way around the building and enjoy some lessons providing a taster of the exciting subjects at HGS, including design technology, French or Spanish and science. In addition to the transition days, we also take our students on a residential visit to Kingswood in September which really helps cement friendships and relationships.

We are very proud of the level of additional assistance that we offer our students. One of our greatest strengths is the support we provide our students, both academically and pastorally.

We welcome students with additional needs and we provide extra support during the transition phase, including further visits and one-to-one sessions with the pastoral team.

HGS is such a positive environment, there is an amazing sense of community and support. With so many clubs and activities to get stuck into around school I have found so many new interests and hobbies that are now a big part of my life! Teachers are always so helpful, I feel like I can talk to them about anything and that they are always willing to help out.

YEAR 11 STUDENT





Parent View

99%

would recommend HGS to another parent

98%

feel that their child is happy

98%

feel they receive valuable information from the school about their child's progress

99%

think that their child is taught well and makes good progress

98%

agree that the school ensures students are well behaved

99%

believe their child feels safe and is well looked after

97%

agree that bullying is dealt with effectively

99%

think that the school is well led and managed

Being at Heckmondwike Grammar School has allowed me to flourish and prosper. This school has a wide range of extracurricular activities for me to take part in, so I hope you will enjoy this school as much as I do!

YEAR 7 STUDENT



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Personal Development

As well as priding ourselves on the excellent academic achievements of all our students at Heckmondwike Grammar School, we equally uphold the importance of personal development. From the very start of transition, we instil a notion of challenge and resilience, providing opportunities for our students to grow, both academically and personally. Furthermore, we strive to provide every student with the support and guidance to navigate through their options and build towards their aspirations, through an outstanding careers programme.

During transition, Year 7 students will be provided a Personal Development Record, allowing them to start tracking their development and contributions inside and outside the classroom, celebrating their successes in everything that they do from start to finish. We feel the mix of academic and personal success supports our students in understanding who they are, whilst reflecting on their own strengths and needs, growing into outstanding members of society.

Extra curricular

There are a huge number of opportunities for students to extend their participation during lunchtime clubs as well as after school training

sessions fixtures and competitions. We are proud of our extensive extracurricular offer, providing over a hundred clubs and societies for students to join and grow. Activities on offer include concert band, youth theatre, crochet and chess, as well as academic societies such as the politics, economics and medi-skills.

Learning outside the classroom is integral to the way we deliver the curriculum at Heckmondwike Grammar School. The school runs teams and clubs for a range of sports including; athletics, badminton, basketball, cricket, cross country, football, hockey, netball, rounders, rugby, tennis, and swimming.

The numerous musical groups together with the House drama competition and annual productions enable actors and musicians of all abilities to display their talents each year.

Educational Visits

A large number of students succeed in the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme at bronze, silver and gold; we are a licenced centre in our own right for the award and the largest provider in Kirklees.

To support learning outside the classroom, we encourage students

STUDENT SUCCESS

Sixth Form Student invited to present their EPQ Project findings on how primary care can be transformed to best support asthmatic patients at the Primary Care Respiratory Society Conference.

to participate in the numerous trips and experiences on offer. Educational visits provide an alternative learning environment to support academic success, but also build on cultural and personal understanding. Some of the residential trips we have run this year include Iceland, Italy, New York and France, as well as day trips to Jodrell Bank, Magna and the Great Yorkshire Show.

The House System

Students are allocated to one of four Houses when they join us and will remain in this House throughout their time at Heckmondwike Grammar School. House competitions in sport, music, drama, debating, chess and some curriculum-related events such as the Maths Challenge and Spelling

STUDENT SUCCESS

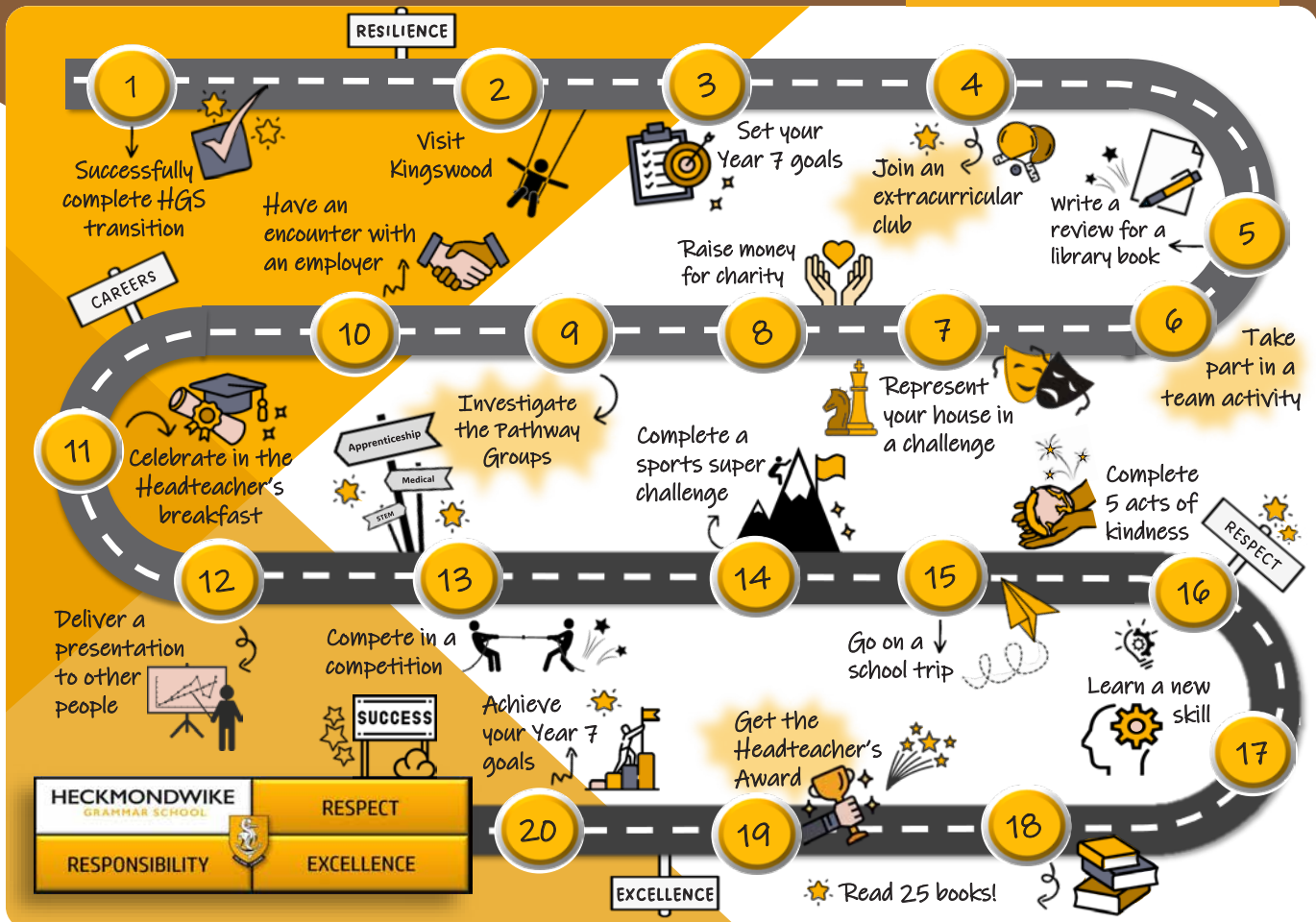
Student selected for Leeds Rhinos Netball Pathways Programme.

Student and his rugby team secured victory in the Yorkshire Junior Challenge Cup.

STUDENT SUCCESS

Student selected for U15 Derby County Cricket.

Student achieved distinction in the British Maths Olympiad.



Bee are a feature of the school and competition is intense.

Students are awarded House colours denoted by a shield badge when they participate in four house events within an academic year.

At the end of the year the Lees Cup is awarded to the most successful House when all the activities are concluded. Students in the school are also given the opportunity to

represent their House in a variety of sports during the year for example at the whole school sports day held at the Princess Mary's Athletics Stadium in July.

Parents should note that when purchasing uniform, the colour highlighted on certain items needs to be in the appropriate house colour: Bronte (blue), Clarke (yellow), Houldsworth (green) and Priestley (red).

STUDENT SUCCESS

Year 7 student ranked 9th fastest in the UK for solving the Rubik's cube.

Student selected to represent West Yorkshire U12s at Hockey.



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Kingswood Dearne Valley Residential

The whole of Year 7 will experience an action packed 3 day residential to Kingswood, Dearne Valley, where they will participate in over nine exciting activities, including archery, climbing, laser tag and lots more. The experience encompasses our Headteacher's ethos of work hard and play hard, guaranteeing that the trip will test and challenge all our Year 7 students, whilst making happy memories that will last a lifetime.

By building resilience we are encouraging students to problem solve, work as part of a team and overcome barriers through positive self-belief.

The resilience residential trip is a rewarding and important part of our transition process; not only ensuring that friendships are formed amongst the year group but that students face challenges which are at first daunting but soon overcome with support and guidance. These skills are carried into academic and social life with us at Heckmondwike Grammar School.

This is an account of their experience on the residential trip from a Year 7 student: 'As the trip was getting closer, I was feeling more and more anxious that I wouldn't be in a group with my friends and there would be no one that I knew. I was nervous that I wouldn't fit in and not be good at the activities set, but I was also excited about accomplishing new challenges along the way. When I was put into my group with no friends I was apprehensive but then I realised the whole trip was about making friends and I very quickly found a few more people in my group who were in the same situation and quickly got to know them better. I was feeling much more confident.

The first day was long but was highly enjoyable, my favourite activity of the day was gorge-walking. My team and I walked down a fast-flowing treacherous river which was filled with fun slides and taxing activities. We had some falls between us but we got back up again and kept on going. The team were in great spirits and working really well together, helping each other along the way. I really felt part of a team and was having so much fun.


The next day I took part in what I thought was the most challenging and thrilling activity, the high ropes. Again working as a team, we had to put other people before ourselves and help each other get as high as we could go. This activity made me feel a great sense of achievement as I found it quite difficult and daunting in parts. Adrenaline coursed through me and I managed to get to the end. My team was so supportive and I couldn't have done it without them.

The trip was a fantastic experience and helped me overcome some of my fears making new friends along the way.'



Heckmondwike Grammar School provides a fun and challenging environment, bringing such a diverse community together into what feels like a family. I enjoy the friendly and comfortable setting school provides which aids a lot when asking for help, especially for new students. Teachers and staff really care about all of the students, wanting everyone to excel and reach their full academic potential. This school is brilliant!

YEAR 11 STUDENT



HGS is an inviting and warm place where I can always be myself. I know if I need help I can ask for it without worrying and friendly smiling faces will always reassure me. HGS is a wonderful new chapter for Year 7 students and I am so thankful that I get to spend my secondary school years with everyone here, and make friendships for life.

YEAR 7 STUDENT



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Catering

We are your Caterers, CH&Co Education.

We've been feeding pupils across the country for over 20 years and we are a proud member of the CH&CO family.

CH&Co Education was established in 1999 and we now operate in schools all over the UK, working with over 300 different clients. Our education sector employs over 1000 people and growing!

We are inquisitive, we are motivated, and we want to challenge the perception of school dining. Our focus isn't school food, it's great food that captures our customers' imagination and just happens to be eaten at school.

We create informative, inspiring and interactive food experiences to engage pupils, teachers and parents in what great food is all about; taste, health, well being and caring for our planet.

Our view is that eating the right food supports learning and energises the classroom. In an age where nutrition is increasingly championed, and intake meticulously measured, good food is like Maths: everything should add up.

As well as catering for your school, CH&Co also cater for many different types of businesses. Some of our clients that we serve meals for include TikTok, Disney, Rockstar Games and LinkedIn. We are also the only caterer to hold the Royal Warrant, which means that we provide the catering for the Kings garden parties every summer at Buckingham Palace!

Please see our table below to see what we at CH&Co Education specialise in.

| | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|--|
|  Manage the catering in over 100 schools |  Support multiple charities including The Princes Trust |  Work with local suppliers |  Cooking with Chef Days |  Attend parents evenings and open days |
|  Employ 1000 plus catering staff |  Royal Warrant Holder |  Utilise school gardens to grow fresh produce |  Nutrition Assemblies |  Engage with school councils |
|  Numerous apprentices at all levels |  Use our Green Model to reduce our carbon footprint |  Support schools to be as sustainable as possible |  Themed days and pop-ups |  Involve pupils in our menu creation |





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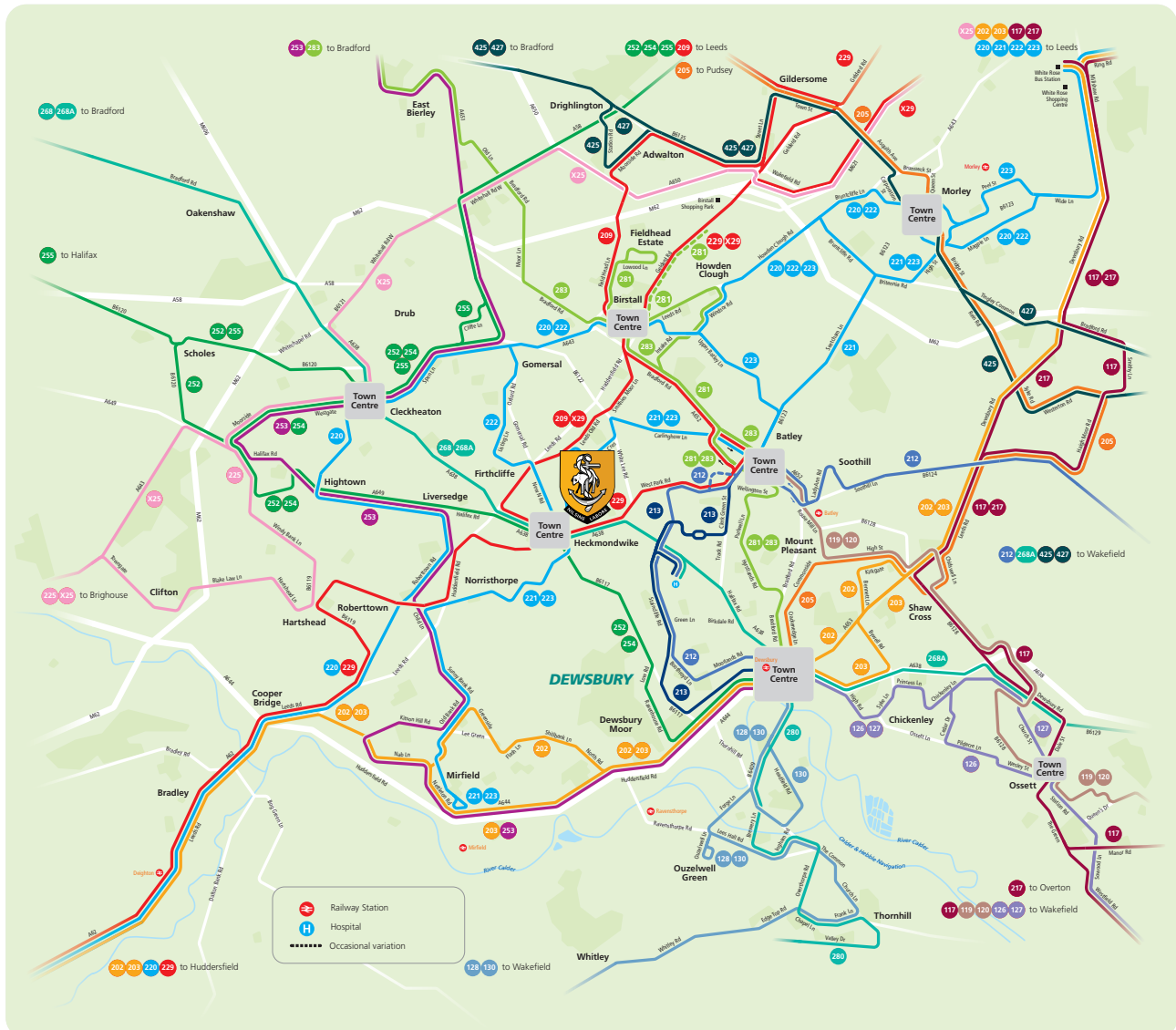
Travel

Heckmondwike Grammar School is well served by both public and private bus services.

Private Bus Services

There are several companies that provide professional private bus services to the school, operating various routes within West Yorkshire. For further details of these services, please visit the travel page on our website:

www.heckgrammar.co.uk/admissions/travel





Dates

Entrance Exam

Monday
16 September 2024

New Year 7 Parent
Introduction Evening

June 2025

Transition Days

July 2025

New Year 7 Parents
Information Evening

September 2025

Residential

September 2025

HGS is like a second home to me, there is something for everyone and we all fit in perfectly by being ourselves. All our lessons are deeply educational and are always fun. Teachers are always on hand to support and encourage us. For me the students at HGS are like one big family!

YEAR 7 STUDENT



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Entry & How to Apply

Heckmondwike Grammar School is a selective grammar school. Each year we run an entrance exam. Details regarding the entrance exam and our selection process can be found by visiting the admissions pages on our website at:

[www.heckgrammar.co.uk/
admissions](http://www.heckgrammar.co.uk/admissions)

Please note that registration closes at midday on Monday 24 June 2024 and that we are unable to accept late submissions.

In order to be eligible for a place parents must also make the school one of their choices via the local authority common application system. Parents who reside outside of the boundaries of Kirklees should apply to their own local education authority.

The school offers 210 places via the local authority. All applicants will be notified as to whether or not they have achieved the required standard prior to the deadline for submission of the Common Application Form to the local authority.



I think HGS is an amazing school. There are friendly faces around every corner including the terrific teachers. They're always there to help you and guide you into the future and you can thrive and excel in anything you choose.

YEAR 7 STUDENT





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Community Swimming Gala
progress amazing Happy Sport
independence great academic hockey **care**
peers knowledge rewards Diverse healthy
approachable **Transition** journey staff enthusiastic
friendly fun **Achievement** goals impact
support encouragement
environment competitions football netball pride kind
inspirational encourage helpful **respect**
safe **Extra-curricular** Potential confidence spelling-bee positive
Trips pastoral confident relaxing **results**
houses compelling House System
enjoyable



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