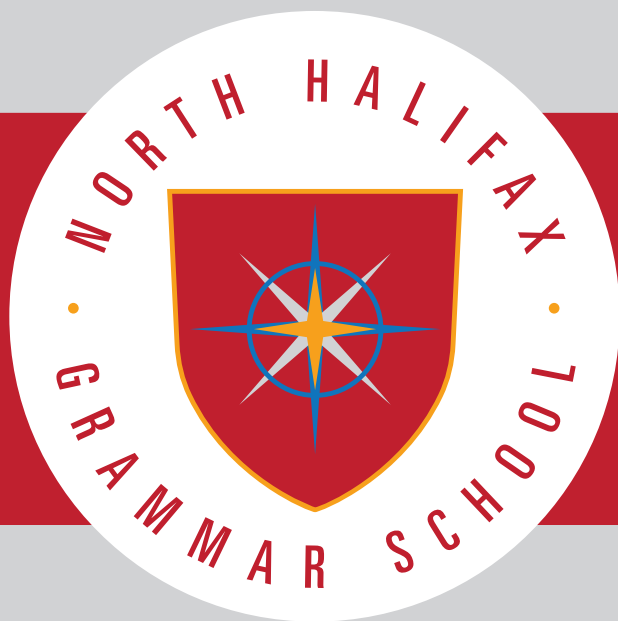


Living to Learn | Learning to Live



Prospectus 2019
For intake in 2020

ETHOS STATEMENT

Our Ethos Wheel explains that we create excellence by being enquiring, enthusiastic and engaged (our 3 Es); confident, co-operative and creative (our 3 Cs) and mannerly, motivated, and mindful (our 3 Ms;).

By adhering to these guiding principles NHGS students reap many rewards - great exam results, significant personal development and valuable enrichment.

At NHGS we create excellence by being:



WELCOME

As an academically selective school, we do live, and indeed love, to learn – and our success in this respect can be seen year on year in the outstanding GCSE and A Level results that our students achieve. Of equal importance to academic study, however, is our commitment to helping our students to learn to live.

Being a good citizen in the 21st century is complicated but we focus on developing the knowledge, skills and attributes that allow our students to navigate life with confidence and set courses of their own choosing. Our students thrive and flourish in our friendly atmosphere and, when they leave us, continue to thrive and flourish in their further studies and in their personal and professional lives.

Set yourself up for success; come and join NHGS!

- A G Fisher, Principal





NHGS VISION

NHGS is the school that everyone wishes they went to: where enthusiasm is infectious and excellence is standard; where co-operation is at the heart of all we do; where everyone strives to achieve their goals and is mindful of the right ways to do so. We equip our students with the knowledge, skills and understanding to navigate life with confidence and set courses of their own choosing. Together, we develop the whole person by **"Living to Learn | Learning to Live"**



"Our son has been happy from the word go. We chose this school because of its strong reputation of pastoral care as well as its strong academic achievements. He seems to be thriving. Thank you!"

- Parent of a Year 7 student

"For us the school maintains its outstanding status. We have nothing to complain about. It's just excellent in providing the highest standard of education."

- Parent of a Year 11 student

Enthusiasm is Infectious

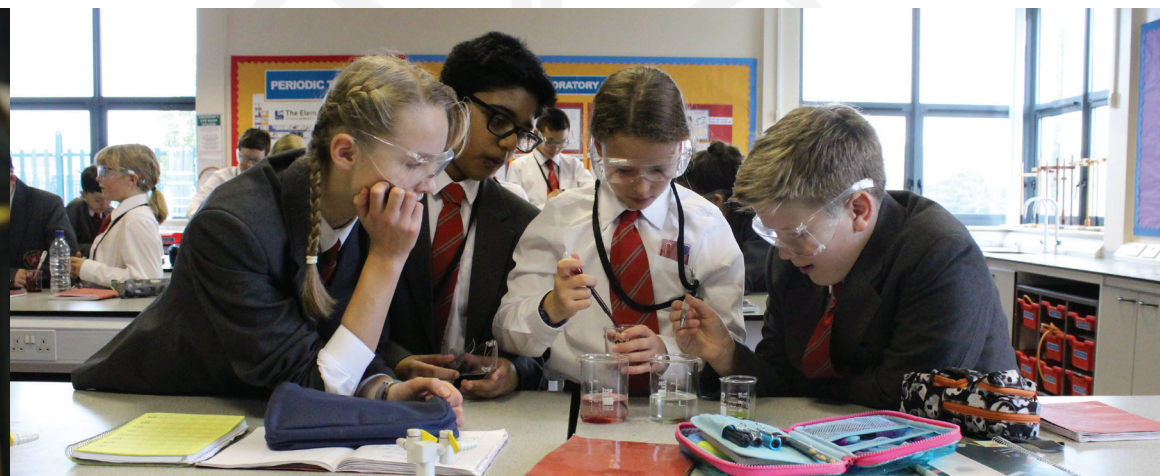
Whether it's academic achievement, sporting success or a rousing performance on the stage, we are all in this together; we are one big family where pride in and enthusiasm for what we all do is shared across the staff, students and parents. In the classroom, our curriculum is brought to life through the enthusiasm of our subject specialists who teach with passion, skill and creativity.

Excellence is Standard

To us, this means delivering great results, great opportunities and a great ethos and culture, year in, year out. NHGS is one of a very few English secondary schools to have been designated an Outstanding provider at every one of its OFSTED inspections. Our tradition of excellence, underpinned by expert teaching and outstanding good behaviour is both our heritage and our future.

Co-operation is at the Heart of All We Do

Co-operation is truly at the heart of our culture, and its importance is highlighted by the fact that "being co-operative" is at the centre of our school ethos wheel. NHGS achieves amazing things through co-operation between staff, students and families: we all play our part.



Everyone Strives to Achieve their Goals

Being an academically selective school, our students live (even love!) to learn. We are committed to giving every student amazing opportunities to achieve their academic and personal best, and to leave with the skills, knowledge and attributes to thrive in all areas of their lives.

The school also has ambitious goals of its own. We are committed to delivering great learning environments, a rich curriculum and the highest standards of teaching. Our Leadership Group, staff and governors are all committed to making NHGS a truly world class school.

Everyone is Mindful of the "Right Way"

We teach all of our students to respect themselves, to respect other people and to respect their environment. We develop their moral compasses and aim to develop new generations of leaders who understand that meeting their ethical obligations is as important as meeting their targets.

We equip our students with the knowledge, skills and understanding to set courses of their own choosing.

Our curriculum is much more than the subjects on the timetable. Our outstanding ethos and culture extend into all areas of life, in and out of school. The modern world is full of challenges, some of them unexpected, so we teach our students to tackle challenges with creativity and resilience to reach outcomes with benefits for all.



LIVING TO LEARN

"The school provides an outstanding curriculum, well suited to the abilities of the students" - OFSTED

The curriculum at NHGS has been designed to suit the needs of all of our students. From high flying scientists and mathematicians, to gifted linguists, talented writers, and students with exceptional creative and practical skills, NHGS provides opportunities for all students to make the most of their talents and abilities through a wide range of GCSEs and A-levels.

Courses currently available include:

Art (Fine & Graphics)

Biology

Business

Chemistry

Computing

Design and Technology

Economics

English

English Literature

French

Geography

Government and Politics

History

Mathematics

Media Studies

Music

PE

Photography

Physics

Psychology

Religious Studies

RPSE

Science

Sociology

Spanish

**99.4%
OF OUR
STUDENTS
ACHIEVED
5 OR MORE
STRONG PASSES
AT GCSE IN 2018**

The curriculum is brought to life by our skilled teachers. Students' imaginations are fired by demonstrations, practicals and a wide range of trips, visits and experiences. Students are taught to learn efficiently, effectively and co-operatively. They learn the knowledge, skills and attitudes they need in order to succeed both in school and beyond it. Their love of learning is consistently reflected in their outstanding attainment at both GCSE and A Level.

"I cannot commend the school enough. My son is making fantastic progress and receives fantastic support to stretch and challenge his abilities."

- Parent of a Year 10 student

LEARNING TO LIVE

Our students undoubtedly learn excellent study habits and achieve excellent results (Living to Learn), but this is greatly enhanced by our firm belief in the importance of the development of the whole person and our longstanding emphasis on what is now being termed 'character education'.

Behaviours and Attitudes For Life

Our Ethos statement (on page 2) has "co-operation" at the centre, but also demands that students are "mindful", "mannerly" and "enthusiastic" - qualities which signify a strong focus on social and moral development as well as academic progress.

Pastoral Care

Our pastoral care for students is second to none and we offer specialist support for a range of common barriers to learning and well-being. We believe that a happy student is much more likely to be a successful student! You can read more about our approach to well-being on page 10.

Enriching Opportunities and Experiences

We offer a huge wealth of enrichment opportunities, including sports, music and drama as well as educational trips and visits, including residential trips abroad. These opportunities and experiences have an enormously positive impact on our students.

Some of the extra-curricular activities available:

Art Club, Athletics, Baking Club, Bar Mock Trial, Basketball, CAD/CAM Club, Chess Club, Creative Writing Society, Dance, Debating Society, First Bow (Drama), Fitness Suite, Football, History Club, Hockey, ICT Club, Masses of Music, Medsoc, Netball Club, Performing Arts, Photography Workshop, Resistant Materials Workshops, Rotary Interact Charity Committee, Rugby, Science Club, Sewing Bee*

**Clubs are subject to change and availability may differ by year group.*

For more information on our enrichment opportunities, please visit our website

<https://www.nhgs.co.uk/students/learning-to-live>



Trips



Music & Performing Arts



Sports



Clubs



STUDENT WELL-BEING

At NHGS we place great emphasis on the well-being of all staff and students, and we have built a dedicated pastoral team which provides outstanding well-being provision.

Our Approach to Well-being:

- We believe that happy young people become successful, resilient young people and adults.
- We think that students learn more effectively in a school environment where there is support for their welfare, happiness and motivation.
- We offer a non-judgemental, tolerant and respectful approach to encourage these qualities in student relationships too.

Uniquely in Calderdale, NHGS provides a full-time, professionally qualified counsellor to offer support at all times, not only to support the students but also to train and support staff in well-being issues. The Well-being and Engagement Officer provides not only counselling, but also engagement support for exam stress, revision strategies, organisational issues, friendship problems, confidence-building and resilience, plus techniques for boosting concentration and motivation.



Mr Wood, Vice Principal (Behaviour, Safeguarding and Inclusion) says

“Developing in students a capacity to learn is obviously a very important aspect of what we do at NHGS. But we also want to prepare students for life, to build their resilience and to develop the means to look after their own well-being. This is why at NHGS our motto is Living to Learn, Learning to Live.”



CAREERS AND ENTERPRISE

NHGS provides an outstanding careers and enterprise curriculum that supports students at each stage of their journey through school, instilling valuable knowledge and skills that they can draw on in higher education, apprenticeships and their working life. We have recently been re-awarded The Quality in Careers Standard in recognition of our careers education provision and we are extremely proud of the fact that we have fully achieved all 8 Gatsby benchmarks already (well ahead of the national deadline).



Throughout each stage of school life we provide students with tailored support to help with key decision making - including support with options choices in Year 9 and work experience placements in Year 11, university visits, apprenticeship insight and UCAS applications. Guest speakers and workshops help to broaden students' horizons.

This programme of activity is driven by our Careers Leader, who is a member of our Leadership Group. A resident Careers Adviser is also available to all students and provides independent advice and guidance.



Students are given numerous opportunities to gain exposure to different jobs, careers and professions and grow their skill sets through the many clubs and societies on offer at the school, for example Medsoc, Psych Soc, Debating Society and the Rocketry Society. Students are taught to write CVs and to sell themselves well at interviews.

The calibre of students and their employability is highlighted by the fact NHGS students have gone on to secure employment with companies including Lloyds Bank, Rolls Royce, PWC and Nestlé, to name but a few of the 'blue chip' employers to have snapped up our students recently.



DID YOU KNOW?

- Our success in promoting the happiness and well-being of our staff is reflected in our low employee turn-over rate. 45% of our teaching staff have been a part of the school for over 10 years, and over 12% of our teachers have more than 20 years service at NHGS - with the longest serving having over 30 years! Even more importantly, our staff absence rate is low and we rarely use external supply. This means that your children will have excellent continuity of education.
- Our catering team is passionate about providing top quality food for our students. Everyday, meals are cooked on site, using fresh high-quality ingredients. This is rarer than you might think in schools and is another way that NHGS stands out from the crowd.
- We cover a broad PE curriculum, giving students exposure to a huge variety of activities. As well as traditional sports such as football, hockey, netball and rugby, we also offer athletics, badminton, basketball, cross-country, dance, fitness suite, handball, gymnastics, rounders, softball, table tennis, tennis, trampolining and ultimate frisbee. We have seen success in Calderdale, West Yorkshire and nationally with our competitive teams, which include athletics (indoor and outdoor), basketball, cycling, dance, fell running, football, hockey, indoor cricket, netball, rounders, rugby league, rugby union and swimming. During Activities Week, students get to experience outdoor pursuits including archery, caving, climbing and other team-building activities.



45%
OF OUR
TEACHING STAFF
HAVE BEEN A
PART OF THE
SCHOOL FOR
OVER 10 YEARS



SIXTH FORM

NHGS Sixth Form:

- We are consistently in the top 25% of sixth forms for “value added”.*
- 85.4% of entries achieved A*–C grades, compared to the national average of 76.8%.**
- Over 60% were grades A*–B, compared to the national average of 52.7%.
- NHGS students automatically get a place in the Sixth Form, subject to meeting the GCSE entry requirements.

“Both of my children are at NHGS, they are extremely happy and are making great progress. My son recently made the choice to stay at NHGS to study A levels, because in his words it is the best”.

- Parent of a Year 12 student

NHGS offers a first-class education from 11 to 18.

There are currently over 350 students in the Sixth Form, engaged in a wide range of A-level courses and enrichment activities. All A-levels are based at the school and we are proud of the fact that we do not outsource our teaching.

Our Sixth Form is truly at the heart of the school - not just in terms of the physical location of the Sixth Form Learning Centre, but also because our Sixth Form students play such an active role in the school, providing important leadership and support to our younger students.

Sixth Form mentors help new Year 7 students find their feet by guiding them from their form rooms to their classes, easing the transition from smaller primary schools to secondary school. The same friendly faces attend the Year 7 residential trip in the first half term. These relationships are part of the fabric of the school, and play an important part in helping newcomers to settle in successfully.

The Sixth Form Enrichment Programme offers many opportunities for our Sixth Form Students to grow. “First Bow” allows our older students to gain valuable leadership experience as they collaborate with the younger Year 7 & 8 students to produce a piece of theatre. The results are always fabulous.

*Measured using the nationally recognised Alps system. ** 2018 results.



Year 12 production team with Year 7 & 8 cast from one of the First Bow performances in 2019

Timetable for Admissions

2019

Monday April 15th	Parents can register their daughter/son for the admissions test by completing the Registration Form from either of the school websites or by requesting a hard copy of the form and sending it back to the school. Online applications will be acknowledged by North Halifax Grammar School. Postal applications will require a stamped addressed envelope for acknowledgement.
Tuesday June 25th	North Halifax Grammar School Open Evening 5.00pm to 8.00pm
Thursday June 27th	The Crossley Heath School Open Evening 5.00pm to 8.00pm
Monday September 2nd	Registration deadline for the admissions tests.
Monday September 16th	Parents will have received information about the place and timetable for the admissions tests.
Saturday September 28th	Admissions tests at both the Crossley Heath and North Halifax Grammar Schools. Please refer to your information pack for your testing centre.
Friday October 25th	Parents will have received the results of the admissions tests (the position in the order of merit) but this will not constitute the offer of a place.
Thursday October 31st	Deadline for the submission of the the online Common Application Form (CAF) to Calderdale LA and neighbouring Local Authorities. Either or both of the grammar schools must be included as one of the five preferences to be considered for a place at the grammar school(s).

2020

Monday March 2nd	Offer of a place at a secondary school distributed to parents by the home Local Authority.
Monday March 16th	Deadline for lodging an appeal against the non-offer of a place at a school which was included as a preference on the CAF and requests for re-allocation.

Thank you to our sponsors



"My daughter is the happiest she has ever been since joining your school."
- Parent of a Year 7 student

"Our daughter loves being at this school."
- Parent of a Year 7 student

"I am very pleased with the school and believe the school really contributes towards the fact my son is happy and doing well. "
- Parent of a Year 8 student

North Halifax Grammar School

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