



**HECKMONDWIKE**  
GRAMMAR SCHOOL

PDR/JDN

20 May 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to inform you of an exciting new development for us with the formation of an alliance of grammar schools in the north of England. During the last few years, governors and senior staff have debated the advantages and disadvantages of joining or forming a formal Multi-Academy trust (MAT). Ultimately, we have decided we would rather remain independent of any formal legal arrangements. However, we have been working ever closer with the other northern grammar schools, sharing ideas, training, and offering support. With further developments of competitions between the schools.

Therefore, I am delighted to announce we are now working as part of the Northern Grammar Schools' Alliance, the NGSA. The following is a statement all the member schools are issuing to their school communities:

*Grammar schools in Lancashire, Yorkshire and Cumbria have agreed to collaborate and share best practice through the formation of the Northern Grammar Schools' Alliance.*

*The Northern Grammar Schools' Alliance is a network of excellence for selective schools to share expertise and develop new opportunities for staff and pupils.*

*The NGSA is not a new school structure or change in the status of any of those schools. It is a collaborative network of schools that serve a wide geographical area, and includes maintained schools, single academies and schools in multi-academy trusts.*

*Its schools share a core ethos of academic excellence, pastoral care and rich extra-curricular opportunity for pupils. The NGSA will help them to build further on all these strengths.*

*It includes the following schools: Clitheroe Royal Grammar School, The Crossley Heath School, Ermysted's Grammar School, Heckmondwike Grammar School, Lancaster Girls' Grammar School, Lancaster Royal Grammar School, North Halifax Grammar School, Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School Penrith, Ripon Grammar School, Skipton Girls' High School.*

This is the first such alliance of grammar schools nationally and we have already been approached by exam boards, the department for education and other grammar schools across the country who are interested in working with us. As a larger body, it increasingly appears as

a side effect of the original intention of similar schools supporting each other, we will additionally have a voice on a much wider stage and as such may be able to influence future policy decisions, which is potentially an exciting opportunity for us.

My best regards to you as always.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter Roberts". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small dot at the end.

Peter Roberts  
Headteacher