

## Ilkley Grammar School Receives Outstanding Ofsted Inspection

Ilkley Grammar School is celebrating the outcome of its recent Ofsted inspection, which has judged the school as 'Outstanding' for the first time in its history.

The school was visited by a team of 7 inspectors over 2 days at the end of March this year, who scrutinised all areas of the school's practice and determined that Ilkley Grammar School "is an outstanding school", with every aspect of the school's provision judged to be 'outstanding'.

Helen Williams, Headteacher, expressed her delight at the outcome of the inspection. "To be judged as an outstanding school in all areas is an absolutely fantastic achievement, but nothing less than IGS's school community rightly deserves; throughout each and every year our staff and students work tremendously hard and continue to demonstrate extreme dedication and resilience in very challenging educational times in order to achieve great successes."

"This outstanding inspection outcome is the result of a huge team effort from all at IGS over the last few years to further enhance the strong provision we have always had and I want to thank everyone at IGS who has played a part. I am immensely proud of all our students and staff who have enabled us to be recognised with such high praise from Ofsted for our day to day work, and also want to thank parents and our community for their ongoing support and championing of Ilkley Grammar School. I am absolutely thrilled that IGS has now been recognised as outstanding by Ofsted and look forward to celebrating this with our entire school community over the coming weeks and months."

The Ofsted report covers a very wide range of successes and achievements at the school and can be found [here](#) and on Ilkley Grammar School's website. A summary of each section is below:

### Quality of teaching, learning and assessment: **Outstanding**

- Teachers' high expectations are at the heart of teaching in the school.
- Teachers have excellent subject knowledge.
- Teachers are not complacent.
- Teachers keep a careful eye on the progress all pupils are making.
- Teaching is challenging, enjoyable and develops pupils' resilience.
- Teachers skilfully exploit genuine links between what they are teaching and literacy and numeracy.
- Teachers and other adults provide effective support and intervention.
- Teachers use a range of ways to check pupils' levels of understanding, including high-quality questioning. This helps pupils maintain high levels of interest, expects them to explain and justify their thoughts, and keeps them on their toes during class discussions.

### Personal development, behaviour and welfare: **Outstanding**

- Pupils' behaviour in and around the school is exemplary. They conduct themselves well, are smartly dressed and ready to learn. Pupils wear their uniform with pride.
- Pupils, including those who have special educational needs and/or disabilities, feel safe in and around school.
- Pupils demonstrate extremely positive attitudes to learning.
- Leaders have successfully created a culture of high academic performance alongside developing well-rounded, thoughtful and caring young individuals.
- The curriculum provides pupils with a wealth of opportunities.
- Parents commented on teachers going the 'extra mile' to help their children.
- Leaders work tirelessly to make sure that the welfare of pupils is of utmost priority.
- Incidents of bullying are low and dealt with well.
- Pupils respect their school environment and there is little litter and no graffiti around school.
- School leaders have created a school culture that respects diversity and tolerance.

## Outcomes for pupils: **Outstanding**

- Leaders have focused on making sure that all pupils not only attain high standards at the end of key stage 4 but also make excellent progress from their starting points.
- This includes those who have special educational needs and/or disabilities and the most able, including the most able disadvantaged.
- Pupils made exceptional progress in English, mathematics, science, modern foreign languages, history and geography.
- As a result of teachers' high expectations and excellent subject knowledge, the most able pupils are challenged and stretched and achieve highly. This group of pupils have consistently achieved well above average A\* to A grades across a large range of subjects over time.
- The progress of pupils in key stage 3 is strong.

## 16 to 19 study programmes: **Outstanding**

- Sixth-form leaders expect the very best from their teachers and students and consistently communicate their high expectations. As a result, students make outstanding progress from their starting points across a wide range of subjects.
- In 2016, students' progress was extremely strong at both AS- and A-level examinations.
- Teachers are highly effective at using students' assessment information to inform their teaching and drive learning forward at a demanding pace.
- Teaching over time is outstanding.
- Students' attitudes to learning are excellent. They are self-assured, punctual and ambitious. They show high levels of independence and cooperate well with each other and their teachers.
- Students feel safe in school and show high levels of tolerance and respect towards each other.
- A significant number of students secure places at Oxbridge and other prestigious universities.

## Leadership and Management: **Outstanding**

- Senior leaders are uncompromising in their ambition. There is a tangible culture of high expectations for both pupils and staff.
- Leaders know their school inside out and banish any thought of complacency.
- Leaders have excellent systems to check pupils' progress and plan for improvement, and all this is closely tied to teachers' appraisal targets.
- Leaders ensure that teachers are well supported with bespoke and well-targeted ongoing training and support.
- Curriculum leaders enhance the school's capacity for further improvement.
- The curriculum is a real strength of the school and demonstrates leaders' strong moral compass. The curriculum provides pupils with a plethora of ways they can develop as rounded individuals.
- Leaders are ever mindful of the importance the school plays in serving its community.
- Governors provide excellent strategic leadership.