

## **1. NEW EFFORT GRADES**

This year, following on from our Outstanding Ofsted inspection, we have set our sights on making Ilkley Grammar School a truly 'exceptional' school, and are raising the bar once again with both students and staff.

We are extremely fortunate at IGS to have such an amazing student body, but we know that there is still more potential and capacity to tap in to from our students, in order for them all to truly excel, succeed and achieve their individual Personal Best.

We have spent time therefore, reviewing the effort grades we were using with students and reporting to parents, and considered whether or not they wholly supported our growth mindset approach of consistently excellent effort leading to improvement and success. We have now developed a new Effort Grades system, which launches this week as a key aspect of our IGS 'exceptional expectations' drive. These new grades and their definitions will now feed into tracking points and reports moving forward.

We hope this new system will not only acknowledge and reward those students who are always giving their Personal Best, but will also encourage students to be more independent and resilient to take risks in their learning, as well as demonstrate good study skills and organisation.

We thought long and hard about the use of the word 'insufficient' to describe the 3<sup>rd</sup> category (please see the poster below) because of its negative connotations, and understand that receiving this grade under the new system might be disappointing for students, and parents alike (many of whom before now may have received 3s or even 4s for effort). We decided however, that this was the real pivot point of the new system – essentially the point at which students are 'coasting' and not always striving consistently to do better and really do need to make more concerted efforts to improve. It was therefore important to us that the language properly conveyed that this effort category does not meet IGS's exceptional expectations and the ambition we have for our students.

We very much hope that you will support us in encouraging students to strive for good and excellent effort and would be grateful if you could take some time to discuss the new system – outlined on the poster below - with your son or daughter over these next few days.

# Effort Grades

## A student making Excellent effort...

**Excellent effort** means being committed to getting the most out of all learning opportunities available. It is what all students should aim for.

- Actively participates in the lesson at all times, and is fully engaged;
- Actively seeks feedback on how to improve the quality of their work and completes all DIRT;
- Shows great resilience, and perseveres with all challenges, even when they are difficult;
- Manages their time and work efficiently, and is highly self-disciplined;
- Uses their initiative in a range of situations, and doesn't always have to be told what to do;
- Consistently makes an Excellent level of effort, working above and beyond expectations, including completion of homework;
- Demonstrates consistently high levels of pride in presentation of work.

## A student currently making Good effort...

**Good effort** means being a responsible and hard working student, who tries their best most of the time.

- Shows a Good interest in their learning and is attentive and focused;
- Responds well to feedback and targets and completes work to the expected standard; including DIRT;
- Shows resilience, and is willing to persevere when things get difficult;
- Takes responsibility for their work, and is well organised;
- Willingly does all that is asked of them, and sometimes more;
- Consistently makes a Good level of effort in class and homework;
- Demonstrates consistently good levels of pride in presentation of work.

## A student currently making Insufficient effort...

**Insufficient effort** means that a student is probably doing most of what they are supposed to do, but is not doing enough to push themselves or make the most of the opportunities available.

- Generally participates in the lessons, and is generally focused;
- May not always try hard enough to improve their work after feedback or complete DIRT;
- Shows some resilience, but might give up when things get difficult;
- Spends an adequate amount of time on tasks and is usually well organised;
- Does the minimum that is asked of them, but not much more;
- Might make a Good level of effort in class or homework, but this is not always consistent;
- Sometimes demonstrates insufficient levels of pride in presentation of work.

## A student currently making Poor effort...

**Poor effort** means that a student is not doing most of what they are supposed to do and they need to try harder and seek more support or engage better with intervention to become a more responsible learner.

- Makes little effort to be involved in the lesson, and may disrupt the learning of others instead;
- Fails to act on feedback provided or complete DIRT, and as a result may not make much progress;
- Is not interested in being challenged, and will give up without trying;
- Spends an inadequate amount of time on tasks;
- Takes little or no responsibility for their own learning or behaviour;
- Effort is frequently a cause for concern in class and homework;
- Demonstrates consistently poor levels of pride in presentation of work.

## 2. CLASSCHARTS

**ClassCharts** is our new electronic management system for positive rewards and negative comments.

Students will now be able to receive positives given by their teachers electronically, with our old manual stamps system becoming a thing of the past. This will mean that students will easily be able to track why, and in which subjects positives have been issued, so that they – and you - can get a real flavour of their strengths and contributions at IGS.

In the same way that positives rewards will be electronically tracked, negatives (known as comments) will now be issued electronically as well.

Positives (points) will be awarded in the same way as previously, and the posters below demonstrate the areas where students can be identified as deserving of positives at IGS, with students working towards Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum awards, or a Headteacher's Special Commendation.

Negatives will be issued for the same reasons as before, and will trigger actions or sanctions where necessary.

Parents will also be able to log onto ClassCharts, so you will be able to keep up to date with how your son/daughter is doing. We know that parents want to be kept informed of their child's progress at school, and the new system will mean that you can now better share your child's success and be informed of where they are doing particularly well, or when it has been necessary to issue a negative, or a sanction.

The aim is that ClassCharts will improve communication between home and school, motivate students further and also help deter any negative behaviour, since the recording is immediate, transparent and specific, with students and parents receiving an email the same day as a positive or negative is added by any member of staff.

More information on this and how to log on to the system will follow, and we will be holding a Parents' Information Evening on Wednesday 20 September at 6pm to go into more detail about the ClassCharts system (as well as our new Effort Grades system), for those parents who would like to find out more.

We are currently piloting the system in school to iron out any immediate issues and hope to be ready to launch the fully interactive 'live' version, with student and parent log-ins issued, on Monday 25 September.

1000  
HEADTEACHER'S  
SPECIAL  
COMMENDATION

							
Good Progress	Effort	Resilience	Excellent Participation	Extra-Curricular	Excellent Citizen	The Extra Mile +2	Tutor Award +3



TOGETHER WE ACHIEVE OUR PERSONAL BEST

**PERSONAL BEST:  
POSITIVES & NEGATIVES**

SPERITIA ET STATURA PROFERAS

											
Lack Of Equipment (E)	Uniform Issue (U)	Around School Issue	Homework (H)	Misuse of Mobile Phone	Misuse of iPad	Behaviour (B)	Insufficient Work in Lesson (W)	No PE Kit	Chewing Gum	Transfer (T)	On Call

3 (in a week)    3 (in a week)    1-3 (in a fortnight)    2    1-3    1-3    3    3    3    3    1    1

**NUMBER NEEDED FOR CONSEQUENCES, USUALLY IN A HALF TERM**

