ILKLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

A MOORLANDS LEARNING TRUST ACADEMY

POST-16

WELCOME

Thank you for your interest in Ilkley Grammar School's outstanding post-16 provision, where we pride ourselves on the quality of education and care that we provide to our students. Whether you are currently studying at IGS or are a student looking to join us for the first time at Post-16, we hope that this prospectus gives you a clear insight into all we have to offer and that you will choose to make IGS your next step after your GCSEs.

We appreciate that this is an exciting and important stage in your education and the decisions, plans and choices you make will help shape the bright future ahead of you. Therefore, our personalised application and enrolment process is carefully designed to help you select the right combination of subjects to ensure maximum success and to support successful progression onto your chosen destination beyond Post-16. We offer a wide variety of courses and the range of qualifications, alongside the excellent quality of teaching and support that our students experience at this level, means IGS students consistently go on to achieve above national average results in line with the top 10% of providers in the country.

In addition to our exceptionally strong academic provision, we also have an incredible range of extra-curricular and enrichment opportunities that enable our students to further develop their wider personal and employability skills and life experiences, whilst also acting as role models and leaders to the rest of our school community. Day to day, as a post-16 student at IGS you will have increased levels of responsibility and independence, and our highly-skilled and experienced academic and support staff will ensure that your time with us is both enjoyable and successful.

We very much hope that you choose Ilkley Grammar School for your post-16 studies and look forward to welcoming you to year 12 next September.

Carly Purnell
Headteacher

Jamie Gutch
Deputy Headteacher: Post 16 and Personal Development

Alex Fox
Assistant Headteacher: Post-16

"Our post-16 student body at IGS is a hardworking, resilient community that prides itself on core principles of kindness, responsibility and courage. The school offers a rich range of extracurricular activities including leadership, sport, creative arts, trips and visits and provides opportunities for all students to embark on a personalised journey of discovery, whether that be related to school subjects or wider interests.

We play an active role in both the IGS and the wider Ilkley Community. Our excellent pastoral and academic team never fail to care for all students and look after our personal and academic well-being. IGS's Post-16 combines the opportunity to develop individual interests with outstanding teaching to form well-rounded individuals who are well-prepared for any challenges we may encounter."

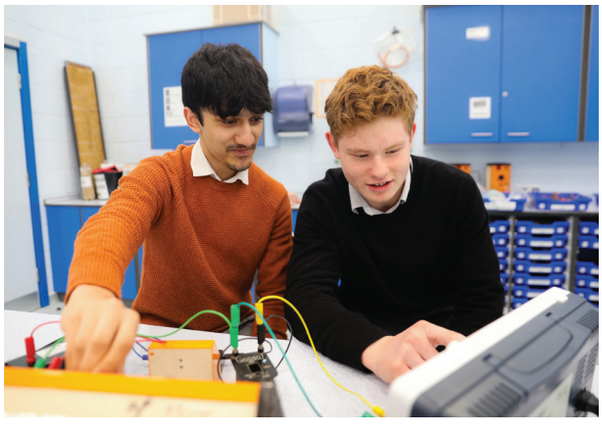
Callum Edwards, Scarlett Guise and Sean Hayes – Head Students 2022-23

PERSONAL BEST

Our vision at Ilkley Grammar School is to provide a world-class, inclusive education and exceptional opportunities which will enrich us both individually and collectively as a community. We will inspire, support and challenge each other to achieve our Personal Best so that we all grow in wisdom and stature. By modelling our Personal Best values and championing equality and diversity, we will make a positive difference to our own lives and the lives of others and will be empowered to lead and influence positive change on a local, regional, national and global scale.

As well as academic success in the form of qualifications, we also want IGS students to leave Post-16 as successful global citizens with the leadership skills, confidence and personal qualities to make a valuable contribution to society. Our commitment to Personal Best drives the work that we do, emphasising the importance of the individual and setting the highest expectations with regards to personal and intellectual growth so students achieve their full potential.

Underpinning Personal Best and our whole school vision are our six values which we aim to develop in all students through both the curriculum and exposure to a vast range of opportunities: pride, respect, courage, responsibility, kindness, and resilience. These values permeate everything we do, build character, support students to achieve their Personal Best and empower them to make a positive difference through the lives they lead.



'IGS has high ambitions and expectations of everyone: students and staff. For some, Personal Best is straight A* grades and a successful application to Oxbridge, but for other individuals excellence may look different and involve a range of destinations. At the heart of Personal Best is the individual and this is why it drives us to succeed.'

Year 12 student

'Since moving to IGS our daughter has flourished at Post-16, both academically and personally.
Her teachers are passionate subject experts who challenge students to think, and inspire them to learn and achieve their Personal Best.
The level of support outside of lessons has also been exceptional. We would highly recommend IGS to any student who wants outstanding post-16 provision.'

Parents of a year 13 student

EXCEPTIONAL TEACHING

Our teaching staff consists of talented and well-qualified practitioners whose infectious enthusiasm for their subject encourages achievement and the desire to succeed. As specialists in their field, they impart their expertise skilfully, harnessing modern technologies to deepen knowledge and understanding and to inspire a love of learning which goes beyond the classroom and the parameters of the syllabus.

Students not only recognise the high quality of teaching on offer, but also the commitment of staff to go the extra mile to help them realise their full potential. As a result, student-teacher relationships are very strong, underpinned by high expectations and mutual respect, and this creates an exceptionally positive learning environment.

Whilst post-16 students will develop deep subject specialism in their chosen areas of study, they will also be challenged and supported to think, analyse and evaluate independently, take intellectual risks, challenge assumptions and find creative solutions to problems. These valuable skills will be fostered whilst simultaneously preparing students to achieve the very highest academic standards of which they are capable – their Personal Best.

'Sixth-form students make outstanding progress from their starting points across a wide range of subjects.'

'Teaching over time is outstanding. Students benefit from feedback that helps and informs their learning...This helps build students' resilience and motivation, and inspires them to persist with challenging learning.'

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'As a result of amazing teachers and dedicated support and pastoral teams, our son has been able to achieve his Personal Best.'

Parents of a former post-16 student

WORLD CLASS CURRICULUM

Our post-16 curriculum offers an extensive range of academic courses including 25 A Levels alongside a selected number of well-respected level 3 applied qualifications which offer equivalent academic weighting to traditional A Levels. These subjects can be combined in a number of ways to provide highly personalised programmes of study that are tailored to meet an individual's academic needs, interests and career aspirations. Indeed, with over 30 courses available in total, this represents one of the widest offers of high-quality level 3 provision in the region. With so much choice, we are committed to guiding and supporting students to make decisions which will give them the very best chances of success.

In line with our high expectations, all students are expected to take at least three A Level or equivalent courses which are studied across the two years, as well as a fourth academic or enrichment element in year 12:

A Level/Level 3 BTEC/Level 3 Cambridge Technical Qualifications	**Plus, an additional 4th element from the section below:**
Choice 1	Additional AS Level
	Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)
Choice 2	Core Maths
	Level 3 Sports Leadership Qualification
Choice 3	Online University Short Courses (MOOCs)
	Extended Work Experience
NB: The opportunity to study a 4th A Level/Level 3 qualification is available for students with a very high average GCSE points score (7.5 or higher)	

Our curriculum encourages intellectual growth alongside personal development, and is built on very strong academic foundations which promote the highest standards and aspirations and offer rigour, depth and breadth.

'The curriculum is a real strength of the school... It combines academic excellence with a strong focus on pupils becoming effective and well-rounded individuals.'

Ofsted

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND OUTSTANDING PROGRESS

We are very proud of the achievements of our students and the high academic standards reached at Post-16. Every year, the grades which students achieve are consistently significantly higher than national figures and a large number of students achieve A/A* grades in all of their subjects. This makes us one of the strongest A Level centres for attainment in the region in both the public and private sector.

Post-16 Performance and Standards				
	Ilkley Grammar School 2022	National 2022	IGS v National 2022	IGS 3-year average
% A*	24%	15%	+9%	23.4%
% A/A*	49%	36%	+13%	47%
% A*-B	75%	62%	+13%	71.9%
% A*-C	89%	82%	+7%	88.5%
Pass rate	99.6%	98.4%	+1.2%	99.7%

Whilst we celebrate and promote this level of success, what is also important to us is the strong progress that students make from their GCSE starting points. All students are encouraged and challenged to fulfil their potential and achieve the best grades of which they are capable. Our commitment to achievement for all can be seen in our positive Level 3 value added score (+.15 in 2019, the last year which performance tables were available), as well our significantly positive ALPS 2 progress score for 2022 which consistently place IGS in the top 10% of all providers nationally for progress. As a result, we have an excellent reputation, not only within our local community but also across the wider Leeds and Bradford regions and every year a large number of students choose to join our Post-16 from other schools to benefit from the high standard of education which is on offer.

'I am proud to be in Post-16 at IGS. It is an outstanding school where students thrive as well as achieve excellent results.'

Year 12 student

A SUPPORTIVE, SAFE AND CARING ENVIRONMENT

Underpinning the academic excellence and culture of high expectations which pervade the school is a strong and personalised pastoral system. At Post-16 we provide highly effective pastoral support, advice and guidance, as well as a commitment to maximising the potential of all students not only as learners, but also as citizens, leaders and team players. Whilst we are a large community, we know all the young people in our care and we are careful to support, as well as offer challenge and build resilience. We encourage independence, leadership and responsibility, and treat students with respect, care and consideration for their well-being through a range of carefully designed support networks.

All students in Post-16 are assigned a personal tutor who supports and monitors their academic and personal development. We take great pride in the quality of the tutor-student relationships we foster through academic mentoring, pastoral support as well as through delivery of our bespoke Personal Best programme which focuses on the development of the whole person. Great care is taken to support students joining IGS for the first time and the programme is informed by feedback from students who have gone through the process. We take care to develop the whole student, not just their academic development.

We recognise that the two years of education at Post-16 are a critical time both academically and emotionally, as students plan their next steps and make decisions about their future. For some this pathway is relatively smooth, but others require more specialist support and intervention from our trained Student Manager and/or our dedicated Student Achievement Manager. This support can take many forms and includes having a full-time in-house counselling service provided by Place2Be, a national charity whose trained counsellors are experts in supporting mechanisms for managing anxiety and providing strategies to support young people's mental health and well-being. We have prioritised Mental Health First Aid training for staff and the Student Leadership Team so that there is high quality support for all students. This network ensures that the support, care and guidance of our students are given the attention they rightfully deserve.

'After moving to Ilkley Grammar School in year 12, I was immediately made to feel welcome and comfortable by both students and staff. Within days I had formed connections with my peers and teachers, and my new classmates made an active effort to include me and other new students both in and outside of lessons. The warm, friendly atmosphere, motivating teachers and highly positive learning environment reassured me that moving to IGS was definitely the right choice.'

Year 13 student

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT AND ENRICHMENT

At IGS we have developed a unique approach to Personal Development which runs alongside academic development. Personal Development is a 'web' of interconnected experiences and skills which combine and develop in each individual person over time. At Post-16, Personal Development skills and experiences are delivered through a combination of the taught curriculum, tutor time, PBT (Personal Best Time), our Curriculum Enrichment Programme (CEP), and all the various leadership and extra-curricular activities on offer. The 8 strands are summarised in the Personal Development web below:

ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP & COMMUNITY: Post-16 students are strongly encouraged to participate in voluntary work during their time in the Sixth Form. This includes volunteering in local charity shops, nursing homes, for the local medical patients' council and local primary schools. Post-16 students also support many charities through a wide range of initiatives. Each year group has its own 'Charities Week' in order to raise money for the chosen charities. Last year, the school raised over £15,000 for local, regional and national charities.

SCHOLARSHIP AND CURIOSITY: The range and quality of academic enrichment opportunities at Post-16 are excellent, making the school experience even more enjoyable and rewarding. In autumn 2022, Ilkley Grammar School hosted 26 Ilkley Literature Festival events which provided a range of additional leadership opportunities for students including the opportunity to interview visiting authors. Recently, politics students held a lively Question Time debate attended by MPs Robbie Moore and Naz Shah. Such opportunities, alongside the EPQ and wider reading lists produced by every subject area, help to unlock new areas of knowledge, inspire intellectual growth and ignite a passion for scholarship and curiosity.

SPORT, INTERESTS & CULTURE: We place great value on the role of enrichment activities to provide challenge, shape character, develop independence and build leadership qualities. Catering for all talents and interests, there is an exceptional range of wider opportunities on offer, with many of the clubs being set up and led by students themselves, supported by our committed and enthusiastic staff. In addition to numerous sporting, creative, musical and STEM opportunities, our enrichment offer at Post-16 also includes: the Duke of Edinburgh award; a Model United Nations; sports leadership and work experience.

LEADERSHIP AND INFLUENCE

Our commitment to developing well-rounded, as well as well-qualified, young people is illustrated through the IGS iLeader programme. This is a unique whole-school initiative which draws together all leadership opportunities available in school under one umbrella. This is launched at the start of each year and students in years 12 and 13 are invited to apply to take on additional responsibility and develop their leadership capabilities through a wide range of activities.

In 2022, over 170 year 12 students have signed up for iLeader roles, taking advantage of the opportunity to take on one or more of the 33 roles on offer which include: subject ambassadors; sports iLeaders; anti-bullying iLeaders; LGBTQ+ iLeaders; Paired Reading iLeaders; IGS News iLeaders; Eco-iLeaders; Wellbeing iLeaders; Community iLeaders and Inclusion iLeaders.

In addition, at the end of year 12, students can put themselves forward to become one of the 30+ members of the Post-16 Student Leadership Team (SLT), one of five Deputy Head students, or for the prestigious and influential role of Head Student. Once appointed, our Post-16 Student Leadership Team receives 'Leadership in Action' training in the summer term and attend a bi-annual conference as part of the Red Kite Alliance to share best practice in student leadership. These positions carry great responsibility but also offer considerable rewards and the opportunity to influence decision-making across the school.

'The commitment to student leadership at Ilkley has provided opportunities for me to grow as an individual and build my self-confidence. I have so much pride in my school community and my position on the Student Leadership Team is a privilege and a responsibility I take seriously.'

Year 13 student

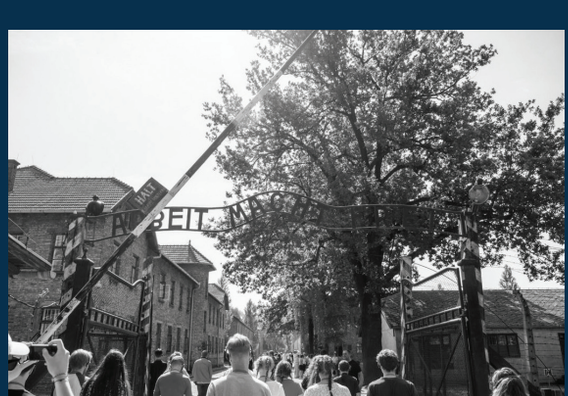
'Post-16 students have access to and are actively involved in a very wide range of student leadership and enrichment opportunities.'

Red Kite Alliance Review, 2019

DISCOVERY AND ADVENTURE

We recognise that extra-curricular trips and visits enhance learning beyond the classroom and are an important and enjoyable part of the post-16 experience, creating lasting memories and forging strong friendships. As well as experiences within the UK, including supporting lower school residentials as Post-16 iLeaders, we offer students a range of opportunities to see the world around them. Alongside sporting and cultural visits such as ski-trips to the USA and Europe, exchanges to Coutances and Madrid and a geography trip to Iceland during the school year, enrichment visits during Challenge and Celebration week in July also include long-established trips to Switzerland where students visit the world-famous Hadron Collider in Cern and to Krakow in Poland which involves a visit to Auschwitz concentration camp and Schindler's factory. In July 2022, 80 students went on a new cultural trip to Paris including visits to Versailles, the Musee D'Orsay and a Street Art tour. The Paris trip will also run in 2023, alongside an additional cultural trip to Rome.

In addition, we work in partnership with World Challenge to provide once-in-a-lifetime opportunities. In 2022, there were two expeditions to Nepal and in 2023, students will travel to Vietnam for a two-week expedition. These opportunities, financed by student fundraising, provide powerful life-changing experiences.



'IGS does not just add value in terms of results and qualifications. It does so much more than that! I have developed as a leader and have accessed a wealth of activities, clubs, trips and opportunities which have enriched my time here.'

Year 13 student

NEXT STEPS & CAREERS

As the founding school of Moorlands Learning Trust, Ilkley Grammar School is very proud of its record of supporting students to achieve success in an ever-changing and increasingly competitive environment, and prospective students can be confident of the quality of the guidance they will receive. Many students leave with grades which support progression to the UK's top universities, including Oxford and Cambridge, and access to highly competitive courses such as medicine, law, dentistry, engineering and veterinary science, as well as apprenticeship programmes with strong links to industry.

New data compiled by The Telegraph in autumn 2022 has revealed that Ilkley Grammar School is in the top 5 of all schools and colleges (including selective and independent providers) in Yorkshire for the number of students successfully securing places at Oxford and Cambridge. Based on offers received for places in 2021, 9 IGS students secured offers and this places the school only one place behind the most successful comprehensive school across Yorkshire on this measure and in line with the most successful independent school. In 2022, a further 8 IGS students secured Oxbridge places. While it is right not to be fixated by just two university destinations, with many students now actively choosing apprenticeships, work, or competitive courses at other universities, this is an important achievement for a non-selective state school which is committed to inclusivity as well as excellence.

The vast majority of IGS students progress directly to Higher Education and they benefit from an extensive Next Steps programme to help make informed decisions about the future beyond IGS. This includes a number of events which are embedded into the post-16 calendar: the UCAS Convention; Next Steps Conference; Oxbridge Convention; opportunities to attend university open days and residentials and visits from guest speakers. However, it is also recognised that increasingly students are accessing alternative routes into employment, including higher level apprenticeships at some of the world's most reputable companies, or taking a Gap Year. Whatever pathway is chosen, students will receive personalised advice and support.

'Through high-quality support and guidance, the overwhelming majority of students go on to further training or study, often at the most prestigious universities.'

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We hope that this prospectus reinforces our belief in the power of a well-rounded education and demonstrates the numerous opportunities for leadership, responsibility and enrichment at IGS. Over the next two years, we will develop your knowledge, understanding, personal attributes, interests and talents so that you leave us independent, confident and equipped to thrive and lead in the world. All of you will be supported in making that next step, whether it be to a traditional university, degree apprenticeship, music conservatoire, art college, or the world of work. Ultimately, we aim to make a positive difference to your lives and give you the skills and confidence to make a positive difference to the lives of others.

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Ilkley Grammar School
Cowpasture Road
Ilkley, West Yorkshire
LS29 8TR

Tel: 01943 608424

Email: admin@ilkleygs.co.uk

www.**ilkleygrammarschool**.com

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Learning Trust