



PARENT/CARER BULLETIN

10 January 2023

FORTNIGHTLY HIGHLIGHTS

I hope you enjoyed a lovely break over the festive holiday period and a very happy new year to you all.

On Thursday, we were delighted to welcome back last year’s Year 13 students and their families for an evening of celebration at the King’s Hall. Whilst the evening has always traditionally been a highlight in the IGS Calendar, this year’s event was particularly special given that it was the first time it had been held since 2019, following last year’s last-minute cancellation due to the Omicron variant. The whole evening was an excellent showcase for the range of talent at IGS and a positive and uplifting start to a busy term.

Students were awarded their A-Level and BTEC certificates, alongside a wide range of subject, progress and attainment prizes, as well as special awards which recognised wider achievements beyond academic success. We have included a more detailed article on the event in this week’s parent/carer bulletin and a full list of the prize winners will be made available on the news tab of our school website later this week.

Next week sees the start of the mock examination period for our students in the current year 13, as well as a range of external exams in BTEC courses in both year 13 and year 11. We wish all students the best of luck!

Other key events this half-term include:

- Tuesday 24th January: Year 11 Parents’ Evening (on site)
- Monday 30th January: Taster Day for Post-16 (current year 11)
- Tuesday 31st January: Year 9 Parents’ Evening (remote)
- Tuesday – Thursday 7-9th February: The Sound of Music Production

Carly Purnell: Headteacher

Christmas Food Parcels 2022

ONE hundred and twenty families from local schools were provided with Christmas food parcels this year, all generously donated by the Ilkley community and prepared and packed by staff and volunteers at IGS.

Becky Malby, of Ilkley Great Get Together, who organised the Christmas food parcel project with IGS said: “Thank you to all the Ilkley bakers who made cakes, and to everyone who donated cakes, mince pies and crackers. Thank you too to the Loafer Baker for providing 160 mince pies, to M&S for potatoes, to Booths for boxes, and to Tesco’s who provided masses of carrots, came to our rescue with last minute parsnips, and collected 160 boxes for the parcels. The Ilkley foodbank also provided vital store cupboard food of tea, pasta, tins of soup, and selection boxes.”



Mr Gutch said: “We were really pleased to be able to offer the use of Ilkley Grammar School sports hall to Becky and her team to store and pack the boxes. Thank you to Mrs Hepworth, Mrs Heyworth, Miss Whyman and to all the volunteers who ensured all the parcels got to the families that needed them and created that little bit of extra Christmas cheer at a time when all of us needed it!”

Headteacher Awards

Congratulations to the following students who have been awarded the Headteacher Award over the last fortnight: Jacob Barton 7BET, Tilda Davies 10LDS, Aniela Heeley 12LR. Students have received the award for demonstrating school values, being positive role models and making a positive difference to others in line with our school vision.



Charities Week

In the final week of term, the post-16 students held their Charities Week. After a student vote the chosen charity was the Pakistan Flood Relief which is providing aid to the devastated areas in Pakistan following the floods last year. Thank you so much to all students and parents/carers who supported the events including a Year 7 Christmas Disco, a movie night and a dodgeball competition. The donations from the whole-school Christmas Jumper Day were also added to the fundraising totals along with some of the proceeds from the Countdown to Christmas concert. In total £2,219.66 has been raised so far. Unfortunately, the headline fundraising event, The Big Sleep Out, was postponed and will be rearranged in due course. All sponsorship raised to date has been held and will restart when the new date is agreed. Thank you again for your support.

Netball Results w/c 12th December

- Senior Netball A team 19-10 BGS
- U15A Netball 4-10 BGS
- U15B Netball 2-15 BGS
- U15A Netball 20-8 Skipton Girls
- U15B Netball 11-11 Skipton Girls



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Ilkley Grammar School celebrates the exceptional Class of 2022 with Presentation Evening at the King's Hall

This was the year group which went into lockdown in March 2020 at the start of the pandemic and who had faced the cancellation of GCSE exams, so it was with even greater pride than usual that Ilkley Grammar School welcomed back the truly exceptional Year 13 Class of 2022 for an evening at the King's Hall in Ilkley to celebrate their outstanding A level success.

With so much uncertainty surrounding the grading process in the first full academic year since the pandemic, students and staff had been unsure whether their hard work, both online during lockdowns and also in school following the return, would pay off last summer. Their success surpassed all expectations and, as a result, the excited buzz of results day last summer was repeated at the King's Hall last Thursday evening as staff, students and their families gathered one last time, in person, to reflect on what had been achieved.

Headteacher, Carly Purnell, began the evening by welcoming back former students (many after their first term at university) and their parents, and by placing their achievements in context, reminding everyone of the unprecedented challenges that had been faced and overcome over the past three years. She went on to celebrate the fact that with $\frac{1}{4}$ of all grades (24.2%) graded at A*, nearly half of all A-level grades (48.6%) graded at A*/A, by and with nearly $\frac{3}{4}$ of all grades (74.5%) at A*-B, IGS ranks as the highest performing comprehensive 6th Form across the whole of Leeds and Bradford according to The Sunday Times.

Mrs Purnell spoke of her pride at being their Headteacher and celebrated the resilience and courage they had shown over their years in Post-16. Having faced the first set of public examinations since 2019, students deserved recognition and credit for how they had responded, as well as for the exceptional results they had achieved. Students proudly collected their A-level and BTEC certificates to the warm applause and congratulations of friends, family, IGS staff and special guests including our Guest of Honour, Professor Fiona Williams and Ilkley Town Mayor, Mark Stidworthy.

There were many superb individual achievements which were recognised in 26 subject awards, as well as in prizes for outstanding progress and attainment across the curriculum. In total a record 27 students achieved three or more grades at A*/Dist* and 56 students achieved straight As or above with 8 students taking up places at Oxbridge last term. Special mention must go to twins Alex and Thomas Creighton and also to Isaac Bullen and Alex Squires who each secured 4 A* grades.

With these results students had progressed to over 50 different universities onto courses as diverse as Immunology, Ancient History, Computer Science (Artificial Intelligence) and Animation with apprenticeships secured with Accenture, KVV Railway and Hanson Heidelberg Cement Group. In his speech Mr Sykes, Director of Year 13, welcomed back this very special year group and spoke of what a privilege it had been to work with them. He compared the year group to an orchestra with each student playing a different part, all of which were essential in order to form the whole.

The school also welcomed back Fiona Williams OBE, Emeritus Professor of Sociology at the University of Leeds as the guest of honour who had attended Ilkley Grammar School herself more than 50 years ago, leaving in 1965. In her speech she explored what had changed over that time and also pointed out the similarities between the activism of the 1960s and the 2020s which were 'like bookends spanning half a century.' While pointing out that many issues such as inequality and climate change remain unresolved she offered a message of hope saying that it is the young people of today who are 'picking up the baton to push for social and environmental justice', and that we need, as the Italian philosopher Gramsci said, 'to balance the pessimism of the intellect with the optimism of the will', meeting the challenges we face 'with ingenuity, interdependence and love'.

Special awards recognising wider achievements beyond academic success and celebrating each of the school values of Responsibility, Respect, Kindness, Resilience, Courage and Pride were also awarded. This year also saw the inaugural Elizabeth Crannigan Arts Award awarded for the first time to Elspeth Tometzki. With excellent musical performances from current student Alex Ashman-Hogan and past students Francesca Beevers and Gus Lovell there was a wide range of talent on display all evening.

Jamie Gutch, Deputy Headteacher, who organised the evening said "Post-16 represents the culmination of the school experience and it was so exciting to be able to welcome back students and parents/carers to celebrate their achievements for the first time since 2019. I would like to publicly thank all those who taught this cohort as they made their way up the school and while in the 6th form. Special thanks must also go to Mrs Pickard (who led the year group through year 12), Mrs Walsh (senior pastoral lead), Mrs McCutcheon (Senior Student Achievement Manager), the dedicated team of form tutors and to all those who tirelessly provided both academic and pastoral support to these students over their time in Post-16. Success is always a team effort." Mr Gutch continued "This event is one of the highlights of our annual calendar and we were delighted that so many of our former students and parents/carers were able to celebrate with us.

Well done the class of 2022. Your school and your families are very proud of you, and we wish you all the very best for the future!"



IGS Website

For more information on what's going on in and around Ilkley Grammar School, don't forget to keep a check on the IGS website in 'News' [HERE](#) and 'Community' [HERE](#)



IGS Post 16 – Taster Day is back live in school

Ilkley Grammar School is hosting its Post 16 Taster Day for all prospective Post 16 students on Monday 30th January. This is an important opportunity to sample life as a year 12 student for a day, across 5 different subject lessons. IGS students will be joined by students from across the county and beyond as we look towards forming our future 2023 year 12 community, together.

Taster Day Timetable – Monday 30th January 2023

Time	Activity
8.25 – 9.30am	Welcome assembly & introduction to enrichment options
9.30 – 10.25am	Subject choice 1
10.25 - 10.45am	BREAK – In F Hall and café – Post-16 office will be open for queries
10.45 – 11.35am	Subject choice 2
11.35 – 12.30pm	Subject choice 3
12.35-1.15pm	LUNCH BREAK – In F Hall and café - Post-16 team will be open for queries
1.15 – 2.05pm	Subject choice 4
2.05 - 3.00pm	Subject choice 5

Email Post16@ilkleygs.co.uk if you would like further details about Taster Day and the opportunities IGS Post has to offer.

Post-16 Taster Day Invitation (September 2023 Entry Applications) [HERE](#)



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