



ILKLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

A MOORLANDS LEARNING TRUST SCHOOL



PERSONAL
BEST

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HEADTEACHER'S WELCOME

Ilkley Grammar School is an outstanding comprehensive school, where our overriding priority is to provide an exceptional, inclusive learning experience at the heart of our community.

We pride ourselves on the quality of education and care that we provide to our students where we endeavour to inspire ambition for all and have high aspirations for every child.

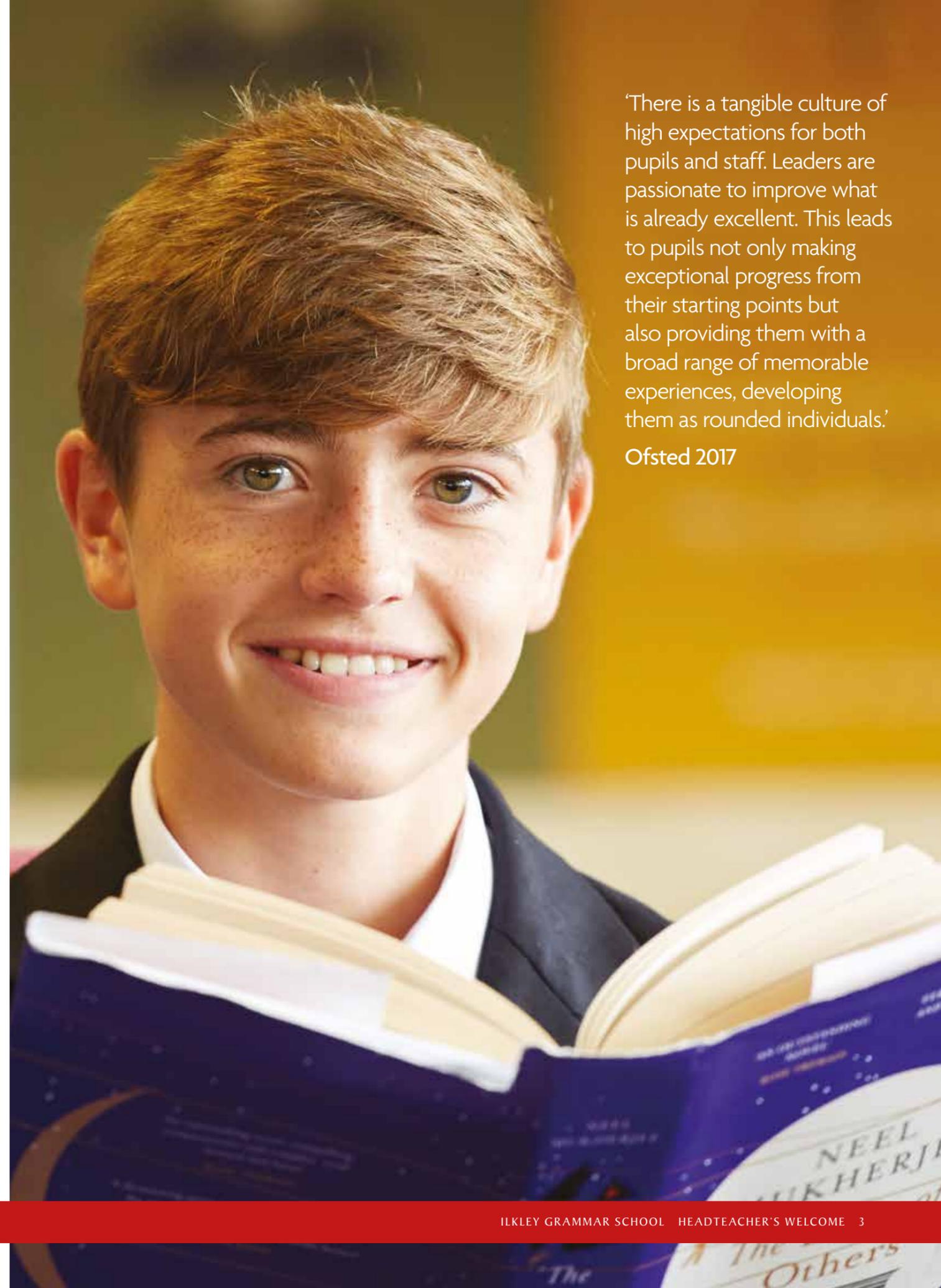
At Ilkley Grammar School we recognise every student as an individual, with different needs and talents, and we work hard together to make sure we support and nurture successful, happy and confident learners who achieve their Personal Best in the widest sense, and not just academically.

Our Ofsted inspection in March 2017 confirmed us as an 'Outstanding' school in all areas of our provision, and we were named as the 'Top Comprehensive in the North of England' by The Sunday Times in 2017.

I am extremely proud to be Headteacher at IGS, and I look forward to meeting you and welcoming you to our school in the near future!



Helen Williams,
Headteacher



'There is a tangible culture of high expectations for both pupils and staff. Leaders are passionate to improve what is already excellent. This leads to pupils not only making exceptional progress from their starting points but also providing them with a broad range of memorable experiences, developing them as rounded individuals.'

Ofsted 2017

PERSONAL BEST

Our vision at Ilkley Grammar School is to provide an exceptional, inclusive learning experience at the heart of our community. Our students will achieve their academic Personal Best and will be equipped with the confidence and skills to make a positive difference to their own lives and the lives of others. We will achieve this through modelling our core values and attributes in the way we work together.

We want your child to leave Ilkley Grammar School as a rounded individual who has not only celebrated academic success but who has also enjoyed their time here. Whilst the development of knowledge, skills and understanding is very important, we also place great emphasis on qualities such as resilience, creativity, confidence, independence and tolerance so that students develop into wonderful and responsible young people, fully equipped for a successful life ahead.

Students and staff together have developed our tie values and attributes. These underpin our bespoke Personal Best Time programme and also provide the focus to achieve our Personal Best across the board and as a journey through the school:



We take every opportunity to celebrate students' success in a variety of ways in school in order to positively encourage Personal Best at all times.



'The school's work to promote pupils' personal development and welfare is outstanding.'

'Leaders have successfully created a culture of high academic performance alongside developing well-rounded, thoughtful and caring young individuals.'

Ofsted 2017



EXCEPTIONAL TEACHING THAT SUPPORTS AND CHALLENGES ALL

Our commitment to digital technology means all students have an iPad as part of their school equipment. This helps them to learn more independently, collaboratively and creatively in a way which engages and motivates.

At Ilkley Grammar School, we believe in fostering a lifelong love of learning. We recognise that each and every student is unique and therefore our approach to teaching and learning is personalised, innovative and engaging. We pride ourselves on knowing our students' strengths and areas for development to maximise progress and ensure that all students have the opportunity to achieve their full potential.

Our highly qualified staff are experts in their field and impart their knowledge skilfully to deepen understanding and to instil a thirst for learning. Student and teacher relationships are strong, creating an exceptionally positive learning climate.

Our staff deliver a stimulating curriculum using modern technology alongside established teaching methods to develop core skills of: resilience, independence, curiosity and self-reflection. This ensures that students achieve both high levels of academic success and are fully prepared for life beyond Ilkley Grammar School.



'Teachers' high expectations are at the heart of teaching in the school. Pupils' progress has been extremely strong, including for the most able and pupils who have special educational needs and/or disabilities.'

Ofsted 2017

A RICH AND VARIED CURRICULUM

We are fully committed to ensuring that every student enjoys a challenging and stimulating education which supports them to achieve their Personal Best. This involves providing high quality teaching and learning delivered by well-qualified subject specialists, embracing new digital technologies, as well as a rich and varied curriculum.

Our curriculum is built on very strong academic foundations, promoting high standards and aspirations and offering rigour, depth and breadth. It is also innovative and flexible, thus ensuring it can be tailored to meet individual learning needs. Indeed, there is a genuine commitment to personalisation at Ilkley Grammar School which can be seen through the wide range of options and curriculum pathways at all levels. This includes our bespoke Year 9 curriculum which allows the opportunity to study exciting new courses in computer science, business, philosophy and law, alongside specialist technology, creative arts, PE and additional language options. It broadens and enhances students' learning experiences, and helps them to make informed decisions for GCSE and beyond.

We have the highest expectations of all learners, regardless of their age or ability, and provide an outstanding learning environment and curriculum, complemented by an extensive extra-curricular programme. This leads to exceptional levels of achievement, personal growth and positive, memorable experiences which last a lifetime.



‘My two children have flourished at IGS both academically and personally. The quality of provision is exceptional and we can’t recommend the school highly enough.’

Parents of children in Year 8 and post-16

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND OUTSTANDING PROGRESS

Many Ilkley Grammar School students reach outstanding academic standards and this is reflected in exceptional examination results at GCSE and A Level and strong rates of progression to competitive courses at top universities across the country. Despite the newly reformed and more demanding qualifications, our students excelled at GCSE with highlights from 2018 including:

- Almost one in every four grades (24%) awarded at 9-8, the new measure of exceptional achievement
- More than 1 in 10 students achieving all of their grades at grades 7-9
- Over 38% of all grades at grades 7-9, nearly double the national average

Whilst we are very proud of this level of success, what is most important to us is the strong progress that students make, regardless of their ability. 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 significantly positive progress scores which consistently place IGS in the top 25% of all schools. As a result we have an excellent reputation, not only within our local community but also across the wider Leeds and Bradford regions.



‘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.’

Ofsted 2017

A SUPPORTIVE, SAFE AND CARING ENVIRONMENT

Underpinning the academic excellence and culture of high expectations is an outstanding pastoral care system. We are committed to maintaining a school climate where every child has their physical and mental health needs supported by a designated pastoral leader and a wide ranging support team which includes the form tutor. High standards of behaviour and safety are in evidence across the school and students are supportive of each other and the wider community. We encourage students to be aspirational in everything they do and to strive to become well-rounded and successful citizens as they progress through the school.

Whatever their starting points, we want all students to be enabled and empowered to achieve their Personal Best and believe that this can be achieved through a caring, systematic, personalised and holistic approach to overcoming barriers to learning and personal development.

We offer a range of interventions and personalised learning strategies to ensure every individual student need is considered and appropriate support provided. These include: numeracy and literacy interventions; pre and post teaching of core subjects; dyslexia programmes; in class support; homework clubs and the use of technology to support literacy barriers, whilst also encouraging independence. We also staff a supportive inclusive learning hub which provides a smaller and more nurturing environment for those who, for whatever reason, require more specialist learning support.

Our aim is to identify needs early, ensuring that appropriate support is put in place to address barriers to learning. We follow a graduated response as specified in the SEND code of practice.



‘Pupils’ behaviour in and around the school is exemplary. They conduct themselves well, are smartly dressed and ready to learn.’

Ofsted 2017

OUTSTANDING ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The range of enrichment opportunities on offer is vast, making school life more meaningful, substantial and rewarding.

Ilkley Grammar School students have access to a wealth of enrichment opportunities. Alongside our established and popular extra-curricular sports programme which includes rugby, football, hockey, cross-country and netball for students of all ages and levels, the music department runs a pop choir, rock band, samba band, reed club, classical guitar ensemble and two orchestras.

Those who want to get involved with the stage have the opportunity to join the school’s theatre company, or be part of the devising club, or work behind the scenes with Backstagers, whilst there are also opportunities for those with a flair for creative writing or who simply enjoy the pleasure of reading.

Whether it is developing public speaking skills through our partnership with the Speakers Trust or by harnessing in-house expertise through clubs designed to develop more specialist interests such as coding, strategy games, art and sculpture, gardening, animation or sign language, there is a huge amount on offer to cater for all students.

All students have the opportunity to develop their individual talents and staff are on hand to share their enthusiasm and to develop potential.

Every year, students of all ages participate in national competitions such as Debating Matters (IGS were proud winners of the Yorkshire Championship in 2018), the National Foreign Language Spelling Bee, the UKMT maths challenges, Cyberfirst, technology competitions run by the Rotary Club and many more.

A list of extra-curricular activities is published each year and they are promoted at a clubs fair early in the autumn term.

The clubs, activities and competitions enable students to widen their horizons, build friendships and share experiences with each other in a more informal setting.



‘Pupils are encouraged to participate in a wide range of extra-curricular activities including charity fund-raising, theatrical productions, swimming and singing.’

Ofsted 2017

BROADENING HORIZONS

Our students' academic life is enriched by a wide range of opportunities in which they explore and enjoy the world around them.

MEMORIES TO LAST A LIFETIME

Educational trips enhance studies beyond the classroom, making learning enjoyable and relevant. Humanities run popular excursions to Iceland, Munich and the Belgium Battlefields. Foreign exchanges take place with schools in Coutances (Normandy) and Madrid. Sporting experiences range from visiting Wimbledon, netball and rugby tours and skiing in Europe or America. Equally, there is the opportunity to take advantage of the various theatre, art and fieldwork trips.

CHALLENGE AND CELEBRATION WEEK: A UNIQUE END OF YEAR REWARD

To reward students for a hard year's work, IGS is unique in offering a week long programme of activities which specifically cater for each year group. Year 7 enjoy a varied programme from rope course adventures to performing circus skills! Year 8 visit the sights and shows of London, whilst Year 9 step outside their comfort zone at Brathay Outdoor Pursuits Centre in the Lake District.

Students in Year 10 enjoy a day of celebration before a one week work experience placement to better understand the world of work, build resilience and self-confidence. This opportunity is also repeated in Year 12, although there are also trips to Switzerland, Poland and London, as well as opportunities to assist the key stage 3 trips as iLeaders.



'There are so many different activities you can do in the Lakes - there's something for everyone. Being challenged in an outdoor setting means you get to learn more about your potential and that of others.'

Year 10 student

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

We give our students lots of opportunities for their voices to be heard through student questionnaires, tutor group representation and Student Council. We see leadership potential in all of our students and the opportunities that we provide help students to find and develop skills they might not realise they had.

At Ilkley Grammar School we aim to develop leaders of today and of the future, actively encouraging students to take up positions of responsibility from their first year of secondary school. There is a huge range of student leadership opportunities available across all key stages from anti-bullying ambassadors to the post-16 Student Leadership Team (SLT) led by the Head Boy and Girl. We have academic leaders in the debating society, iReaders and subject iLeaders who provide intervention and support to small groups of younger students. There is also a range of arts iLeaders including Backstagers who take responsibility for the technical and operational side of productions and concerts.

Sports Leaders are coaches for in-school teams and also link with primary schools to encourage participation and future sporting excellence. Student Council, incorporating representatives from each year group, ensures that our students have lots of opportunities to share their opinions and experiences of their education, as well as propose suggestions for improvement. Our post-16 Student Leadership Team attends a bi-annual conference and training day as part of the Red Kite Alliance to share best practice for student leadership and discuss the common challenges they face.



'Student voice and representation are crucial to the satisfaction of all. There is a variety of ways students can share their opinions to ensure every voice is heard. New ideas, solutions and feedback mean various areas of the school are constantly developing and improving to make IGS the very best it can be.'

Year 13 student

PREPARATION FOR A SUCCESSFUL FUTURE

Post-16 is the culmination of the whole school experience and we pride ourselves on the personalised support that we offer our students during this exciting and challenging stage of their life.

Students and staff at post-16 have a proven track record of working hard and working together to achieve great success. Our progress rating for the past three years is graded in the top 10% nationally and the quality of post-16 has been officially graded as Outstanding. The grades which our students achieve are consistently significantly higher than national figures. This creates real opportunities for our students, many of whom have progressed to varied and exciting destinations including Oxbridge and Russell Group universities, studying on competitive courses such as medicine, law, dentistry, engineering and veterinary science, as well as securing higher level apprenticeships at some of the world's most reputable companies or moving directly into employment.

We offer outstanding teaching, specialist pastoral care and a wide range of academic courses to meet the needs of our students. This is also complemented by extensive enrichment opportunities including sports leadership qualifications, first aid skills, work experience, leadership of younger students, the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) and wider life skills. Such provision helps students develop into well-balanced young adults who are not only academically successful, but have the skills and confidence to make a positive difference to their own lives and the lives of others.



'Post-16 is a real community in which staff and students work together to achieve our Personal Best. Teachers have an open door policy and will always make time for us. There is support, advice and mentoring in all areas to ensure we leave IGS proud and fulfilled by our experience.'

Esme Pearce and Adam Cooke, Head Girl and Head Boy 2018

