

## STUDENT LETTER

Dear \$Forename\$

I am delighted to hear that you will be joining us at Ilkley Grammar School (IGS) in September 2020 to start what I hope will be a memorable and enjoyable journey for us all: for you as you begin 5 or 7 years of your secondary school education, as well as for me personally as I start my new role as your Headteacher here at IGS.

Starting secondary school is a very exciting time, and we will do everything we can to make sure that the transition from your primary school is as smooth as possible. We have a fantastic transition programme which is led by a strong and experienced team: Mrs Varley who is our Student Support and Transition Manager; Mr Leeming who will soon be your Head of Year; and Mr Calvert, Assistant Headteacher. They will all help you to get to know the school and answer any questions you may have before you start in September as one of our “green ties”. Given the current situation, we will probably have to adapt some of our usual transition activities this term, however please be reassured that we are absolutely committed to making sure you feel informed, prepared, supported and enthused at this important time. We will be creating videos and some sample remote lessons for you, we will share some top tips from our current year 7s, and will be in regular contact with you and your parents/carers to ensure you are all kept updated with information.

Whilst the world is going to continue to feel strange for a little while longer, there is definitely a lot for you to look forward to in terms of joining IGS. Not only will you study 16 different subjects which will include practical lessons in specialist rooms in science, computing, technology, art, drama, music and PE, but you will also be able to join an even wider range of clubs and activities, both at lunch and after-school. These include, but are not restricted to: football; rugby; basketball; netball; hockey; cross country; dance; drama; musical theatre; samba band; orchestra; pop choir; coding club; strategy games; art and re-design clubs! We also have numerous opportunities for you to develop your leadership skills, not only on the student and sports councils, but also as subject ambassadors, wellbeing leaders, library leaders and we even have run our own Model United Nations for the last two years. What I can guarantee is that, whatever your interests, there will be something for you to try, a range of trips and visits for you to enjoy, and opportunities, both within and outside of your lessons, to get to know lots of brilliant new people.

I'm really looking forward to welcoming you and your family in person but in the meantime, if you have any questions do not hesitate to get in touch with us. We have set up a dedicated email address [transition@ilkleygs.co.uk](mailto:transition@ilkleygs.co.uk) and if you send us your questions or queries related to transition and life at IGS, then one of the team will get back to you.

Best wishes,



**Mrs Purnell**