

POSITIVE FEEDBACK

Positive messages from parents and the community January 2021

Thanks again

Just to say another big thank you to all staff at IGS. Another very productive week of education despite the press saying schools continue to be closed for a longer period – teachers and staff are clearly working very hard to ensure that school is ‘not closed’ and are delivering education virtually.

Received: 29 January 2021

“Thank you so much for all the hard work you are doing for the pupils in such a horrible and worrying time for everyone. You are doing an amazing job making sure the children can continue learning, despite regulations and plans changing all the time, last minute announcements and such confusing methods. I am in awe of you and couldn't imagine being in your shoes!”

Year 9 Parent

"Hats off to IGS, I've always been really impressed by the school's pastoral care. It's second to none"

Year 9 parent

Thanks for letting us know

We really appreciate all the hard work the teachers are putting in to the home learning to engage the students. It's keeping 'I' on track!

Many thanks

Received: 26 January 2021

Many thanks

I have a daughter in Year 7 and a son in Year 9. As you know they have been studying from home, I have been lucky enough to overhear parts of their live lessons.

I just wanted to say a huge thank you and well done to all the staff involved. I feel the lessons I have heard have been conducted in a very professional, yet personal manner. It is amazing how the teachers and children have adapted to remote learning.

Please will you pass on my thanks to all the teachers involved in teaching my children. We are extremely grateful.

Received: 22 January 2021

FSM Food Parcel

I just wanted to say, as this was the first time I had picked up the fsm food parcel, that I was completely overwhelmed by it. I just wanted to say Thank You to all of you involved, for all of your efforts in doing this for us.

Received: 20 January 2021

Thanks

Just wanted to say how grateful I am to the school staff for supporting the children in these strange times.

The teachers have been approaching the lessons with enthusiasm and professionalism making the children feel motivated and included. I know my daughter seems to be treating the experience as a normal school day.

Sent: 18 January 2021

Huge thank you

I just want to say a huge thank you to you and everyone involved in putting the remote learning together. It has been a godsend knowing the girls are occupied and working in a live lesson leaving me to get on with my own work.

Sent: 15 January 2021

Big thank you

I just wanted to send a big thank you to you and to all the staff at IGS for all their hard work, dedication and enthusiasm.

I am so impressed with the way they are inspiring the children and keeping them motivated and interested during lockdown.

Thank you so much, I think that you are all doing a great job and it is very much appreciated.

Received: 15 January 2021

Really impressed

I have been really impressed by the return "to school" after the Christmas break. It is clear that there has been a substantial amount of time, effort and work put in by the staff to put systems into place to ensure that the remote learning can be the best it can be. As a parent that is also working from home it has been really useful (for all three of us) to have the structure of the school routine and O and M are definitely getting more out of the Teams lessons than the remote learning last year. I appreciate that the hard work is continuing as

teaching progresses and there is the ever pending threat of further changes being issued by the Government. I just wanted to say thank you – you all (and that includes all of the staff) are doing a great job and it is appreciated!

Received: 15 January 2021

Post 16 thank you

Can I also thank you and the staff at IGS for supporting our kids through this difficult situation. I really appreciate the efforts that have been made to accommodate the ever changing demands from government - what you have all achieved in keeping teaching and motivating the students is extraordinary !

Received: 13 January 2021

To: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk

Subject: Ilkley grammar school, Ilkley, west yorkshire

I thought I would share my feedback with you following the request from Gavin Williamson [Secretary of State for Education].

Today I have sat in all day on my 12 year old sons lessons, I had time for once and this was not to check on the teachers but to ensure that on the one day I could, I could ensure he concentrated and didn't drift off in his head with a football.

I just cannot congratulate our teachers working in these insane conditions enough. Every teacher I watched was pulled from pillar to post in the online lessons by chat messages and over eager learners vying for attention. My head is still spinning from watching the last lesson English in which the fabulous teacher appeared to be getting pecked by a flock of hens. He handled it with patience, approachability and with a huge sense of calm.

Often people will only email with the bad, there is so so much brilliance out there and felt the need to let you know that this bunch of teachers at my local state school are utterly amazing. I am not a teacher just a very grateful mum who wanted you to be aware they are doing you very very proud.

Received: 08 January 2021

Heartfelt thanks

Please let me add my heartfelt thanks to all staff at IGS for the start to home learning and for all the communications you have provided us parents with over the matter.

The 8.30 registration is a great idea. I have listened in to a couple of them and the few moments of words of support and motivation from my children's tutors are really

thoughtful. It also adds structure to the day by following the normal school routine. My children have been lucky enough to have had all live lessons so far (which I know is IGS's intention where ever possible), and I think it really has been much more motivating to them to have extensive contact with the teacher before getting on with work, rather than work just being posted. I had to have a little chuckle over PE. Gosh, its amazing how a teacher telling my kids to go for a run has so much more impact than a Mum!

There is no doubt for my two children being at school is far superior to being at home and it is a very difficult time, but that said, the home learning programme from IGS in the last week has been fantastic and I'm very grateful of this for my children's current wellbeing and long-term future.

I know for many, it will have meant you have not had the Christmas breaks you deserved after a challenging autumn term and others, like me, will now be juggling their own childcare with work. A big thank you for all your efforts.

Received: 09 January 2021

To: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk

Cc: IGS Admin Email

Subject: Ilkley Grammar School

I'd like to let you know what a great job of remote learning Ilkley Grammar School are doing. They have carried on all the lessons as normal and my son, who is autistic, has managed to be entertained all day every day.

It has meant I can carry on working on the days where my younger children have gone into school (I am a key worker).

Received: 09 January 2021

To: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk

Cc: IGS Admin Email <admin@ilkleygs.co.uk>

Subject: Ilkley Grammar School URN: 136905

I would like to let you know that, as parents of children in years 10 & 12, we are in awe at the incredibly high quality of online teaching being provided this week, despite teachers being given only 12 hours notice to deliver it.

The Headteacher, Carly Purnell, provides parents with exceptional communication and the teachers work relentlessly to ensure our children receive the best education possible under the most difficult circumstances.

Our children are motivated and engaged in a full daily online timetable of learning and we are very grateful for the additional work that all staff make to put this in place.

Received: 09 January 2021

Thank you for all your hard work and dedication

Just to say thank you so much for all your hard work to enable my children to continue their education online, in this extraordinarily challenging time.

I am amazed at how quickly you have all reacted individually and as a team, to implement the curriculum to ensure that the children will not miss out on any learning opportunity. Both my children are very much enjoying the contact with their teachers for the live lessons and the challenges each lesson presents.

Thank you again for all your hard work and dedication, I would have no doubt that you are more than exceeding any standards that ofsted could potentially look for.

Received: 09 January 2021

Thank you so much

I would like to say thank you so much to her teachers for all of their efforts with regards to her lessons. I have been able to sit in parts of some of her classes and have been really impressed with how quickly the teachers have made lessons interesting and fun. I was also very impressed with the care and dedication that I have witnessed in her classes.

As pupil feed back L has said "all of her lessons have been very good and very well done"

A huge thank you from us and thank you as well to the teaching staff that have encouraged a walk or time away from the screens as this is also important guidance for the pupils to hear not only from parents

Thank you again to all staff for the help this week from IT helping us sort out remote working and the lovely staff on reception and L's form teacher.

Thank you again huge well done for all of your hard work

Received: 08 January 2021

Thank you

I would like to say a huge thank you to all the teachers and staff at IGS who are working so very hard, around the clock, to ensure our children continue to be inspired and learn.

We really do value and greatly appreciate all you are doing, so much on going respect for the teaching profession, especially in these extremely challenging circumstances.

Received: 11 January 2021

Really appreciate your hard work

Just to say how much we appreciate your endless hard work and that of your colleagues in responding to the continuing twists and turns that the government has imposed on you. It must be utterly frustrating and exhausting but somehow you are keeping going and finding ways to make it work.

I very much appreciate your prompt communications at each stage and as the parents of a year 11 student who has worked hard over the holidays I appreciate that you are speaking to these concerns.

Thank you

Ps the feedback so far this week is that online learning is going well and much better than before.

Received: 08 January 2021

Thank you

I just wanted to email and pass on my thanks to all the staff at IGS for continuing to provide such an amazing education for our children, despite everything that's been thrown at you over the past weeks and months.

The quality of the remote lessons, the communication and the encouragement from the boys' teachers has been outstanding and the way you've all presented a 'business as usual' attitude towards the children's learning, despite the hundreds of extra hours of work, is quite remarkable!

Please pass on our thanks to everyone and I hope you have a well-earned rest this weekend.

Received: 08 January 2021

So impressed with the online learning

I just wanted to say I am SO impressed with the online learning IGS is providing this lockdown. B is in a routine & although he was under the weather yesterday he has been at his desk & engaged from the start of the day till mid afternoon.

Please pass on my gratitude & appreciation for all the hard work you & B's teachers are doing!

Received: 08 January 2021

Amazing

I just wanted to pass on my thanks and appreciation of a great week of online learning. As parents who have experienced the provision from primary school last lockdown and now with IGS this time around, I am blown away by the quality of teaching provided.

The classes have been well thought out, engaging and very supportive. E has really enjoyed it.

Hats off to you all as it must be such a challenging time but we think you are amazing!

Received: Friday, January 8, 2021

School updates

I have just read Carly Purnell's latest update and would like to say how impressed I am. The communication is thorough and clear and overall I think addresses excellently the understandably uncertain situation we are in by providing clarity where possible and being honest where it is not. More importantly it shows a great and positive attitude by simply dealing with the situation and noting the positives such as how the students are responding. This is very refreshing and sets a great example for the students. While they have had to miss out on so much I feel sure that their generation will show extra resilience too and the tone set by the school will undoubtedly have helped. So I would like to thank the school leadership and all the teaching staff (though especially those teaching our youngest who is now year 13) for their ongoing hard work but also for the example they have set.

Received: 07 January 2021

Thanks

I just wanted to say a big thank you for how well you are keeping us parents informed through all your emails full of information and the latest updates.

This must be such a very difficult and challenging time for you all as teaching staff as you follow government guidance and do what you feel is best for your pupils, whilst dealing I am sure with your own personal challenges and complications at home due to the lockdown and general restrictions.

You do an amazing job and it is hugely appreciated.

Good luck and many thanks

Received: 07 January 2021

Thank you

Please pass on thanks to all IGS staff for the way in which they have reacted so positively to the ever changing news and continued to focus on supporting their students in these very difficult and challenging times.

We are very grateful to everyone at the school.

Received: 07 January 2021

Thank you all for your ongoing support

Whilst I have this opportunity, I would like to say thank you to everyone at the school for working throughout the pandemic, for providing ongoing updates to parents and trying to continue to provide education, as well as support to students. It must be immensely stressful at times with so much uncertainty and changing directives from government, and as a family we really appreciate your commitment. Thank you.

Received: Thursday, January 7, 2021

THANK YOU

I'd like to just say thank you.... each time we go into home schooling either in lockdown or after school hols there is always another improvement to the process.

This time is particularly noticeable and the higher level of structure to O's day is a massive help.

He (we) really struggled last time, he got quite behind and was more importantly very low within himself.

Although he isn't jumping for joy at the thought of a day on his iPad (he didn't jump for joy at the thought of coming to school either!) he definitely seems more engaged.

Received: 08 January 2021

Lockdown School

This is just a quick note to say how much I appreciate the lengths you and your staff are going to this term. It must feel like juggling on quicksand.

My son has had 2 well-structured and productive days (the timetabled breaks are particularly welcome) - his PE teacher has given them the option of going out for a run, which he has just done.

Received: 06 January 2021

Thank you!

Once again I'm writing to acknowledge the incredible effort that you have all given since school returned in September 2020. Having to deal with an ever changing situation during Christmas must have been difficult for you and the rest of the teaching staff and I want you to know that this doesn't go unnoticed .

Thank you for the clear and regular communication and for the remote teaching provision that we once again have in place .

Please pass on our thanks and good wishes to all staff and I hope this emails goes some way to showing how much we appreciate everything that the school is doing for the children .

Received: 05 January 2021

School closure message

Thank you so much for the emails you have sent out recently, especially the one we received so late last night. Please be reassured that we really appreciate the dedication you and your team's have given to this situation.

We can't ask for more.

Received: 05 January 2021

Thank you so much for your reply.

I can't tell you how grateful we are for all the work, pivoting and support you are giving our children and us as parents. I have many friends with children at IGS and the feedback is unanimously positive and full of gratitude for all IGS is doing. (thought you might like to hear this after what I suspect has not been a relaxing Christmas break for you and the IGS team)

Thank you

Just wanted to say thank you for the communications over Christmas. You are all doing a great job in the face of adversity. I think IGS provides great online learning and we're confident that our kids will continue to do well whether online or face to face. All your staff are amazing, and I think you have been asked to do the impossible over the next few weeks. Please look after yourselves, hang in there!

Received: 04 January 2021

Thank you

I just had to write and say a huge thank you from me and my family. My husband and our three children are incredibly thankful for the open, honest and timely communication from Ms Purnell and other teaching staff at the school.

With two children in exam years there is definitely potential for stress levels to rise at home but with the emails you've sent, we are much better able to manage that situation - thank you!

And please don't apologise - you haven't intruded at all on our Christmas time, certainly not in comparison to how your break (if you've been able to have one) has been impacted.

Thank you.

Received: 02 January 2021

Return to School: Remote Learning

I just wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for providing this clear communication over the holidays, especially with regards to the information on the mock examinations.

We are very appreciative of all the efforts IGS is going to.

Received: 02 January 2021

Thank you

As a parent of a year 8 student please can I say thank you for all you are doing in this pandemic to keep all students as safe as you possibly can and for keeping us as parents informed and updated even during the time you should be relaxing with your own family.

Please can you send a big thank you to all IGS staff for going above and beyond to enable our daughter and all students to be continually educated to a high standard in these difficult times.

Best wishes for 2021.

Received: 02 January 2021

We would like to say thank you to yourself and all the staff at IGS.

Throughout the Autumn term you have continued to keep school open for the children as much as you possibly can, and have provided the children with some much needed normality in these strange times. As a school you have continued to provide excellent teaching and learning whilst adapting to all the changes necessary to be 'COVID secure', often at very short notice.

We are really pleased with how well E has settled into Year 12 and how much she is enjoying it, again a testament to the hard work of the teachers and support staff at school. It is very good to hear that the children will be receiving remote learning from the 5th January despite the government suggesting a later start date. Thank you for this, as a parent it is hugely reassuring to know that E will have contact with her teachers so that she can continue with her studies. We appreciate how hard you are trying to minimise the disruption to the children's education at IGS.

Thank you for taking up your time on New Year's Day to keep us informed.