

POSITIVE FEEDBACK

Positive messages from parents and the community

March 2021

Thanks to you and your colleagues

IGS has provided the pupils with a safe, secure and stable environment for learning throughout this recent period of the pandemic.

Much appreciated.

Received: 26 March 2021

End of Term

Many thanks to all the Teachers & staff who have worked so hard to make this term 'business as usual' through your outstanding remote learning provision . Hope you get chance to have a very much deserved break also!

Received: 26 March 2021 14:55

"Seeing this work first-hand made me proud to be a resident of our wonderful town"

*By 'Reader Letter' published in the **Ilkley Gazette***

READER LETTER

I was delighted to offer my time and help this week, and indeed next week, volunteering to help Ilkley Grammar School to provide a coronavirus test to all children who attend the school in order to be able to return safely. While I was delighted to help out, the real praise for this amazing work needs to go to IGS staff, students and other volunteers who have performed amazing work to help ensure pupils can return safely to school and that the process of testing was as safe as possible and made as calm and stress-free as possible for all students.

Seeing this work first-hand made me proud to be a resident of our wonderful town and shows the amazing work being undertaken by those dedicated staff at IGS. Given the success of the work being done to get students back into school I am confident that staff will also be doing a remarkable job helping students catch up with the gaps in their learning journey that this pandemic has caused.

Kyle Green | District Councillor for Ilkley

Comments received from the Covid-19 mass testing programme volunteers March 2021

Just to say I have been very impressed with the way this whole thing has been organised, and the way it has worked so very efficiently.

I've been very glad to have played a small part in helping out. It's great to hear that all the tests so far have been negative - I'm sure everyone will have found that very reassuring.

It has been a pleasure to meet so many of your students who have been very polite, pleasant and cooperative.

Thank you- well done for all your hard work and I have really enjoyed working with your staff and the other volunteers!

It's been a pleasure to be able to help out, and I must congratulate the staff for such a slick operation.

I'm pleased the testing has all gone well, I was very impressed with your set up.

I am delighted to have helped and well done on the organisation.

So impressed with the organisation of your covid response. Volunteering has been a pleasure.

An absolute pleasure to have helped you.

Really happy to have been able to help, you and team have done a brilliant job ?

It's been a pleasure helping out and the organisation has been a credit to you and all those involved.

I just want to congratulate the school for organising this huge project and executing the challenge with such ease and professionalism. Well done!

I have personally benefitted from helping out more than I could have imagined or anticipated. It has allowed me to get back some self confidence, after a long period of anxiety, causing withdrawal and self isolation.

I am very grateful, thank you.

What a wonderful achievement to have processed 4341 tests by Tuesday 16th and even better.....that all the tests have been negative, congratulations to you and all the IGS Testing Team.

It has been my pleasure to have contributed in a small way to such a successful and positive programme.

Thanks for the amazing organisation the last couple of weeks.

It's been a pleasure to be involved and the students are a credit to the school.

It was a pleasure - students really rose to the challenge, as always.

Weren't all the children great. So polite - even when sticking the swab up their nostril!

Glad to be able to help and if you need help with anything again just let me know.

I really have been impressed by the whole set up.

I just wanted to feedback from my assistant experience today- to say how lovely it was that every single student thanked me after their test. Great job & excellently organised,

Do you need me again? Happy to volunteer whenever needed, I really enjoyed it and met so many fabulous people....adults and children. Hooray for IGS!

Thanks again for letting me be part of the volunteers.

Mass Symptomatic Testing Programme @ IGS

We are writing, as recent volunteers, to offer our congratulations to yourselves and the Team at Ilkley Grammar School (IGS) that planned, organised and facilitated the recent Covid Mass Symptomatic Testing Programme at IGS.

When a request for volunteers to assist in the Testing Programme was made by IGS we felt that as Grandparents with 3 Grandchildren already attending IGS and with 3 more Grandchildren currently attending an Ilkley Primary School that this was a request that we could offer our time to.

From the initial communication by IGS, at the Training Session and throughout the 2 weeks Testing Programme we were both highly impressed by all aspects of our roles as a Volunteer Test Assistant. and Meet & Greet Assistant. IGS staff were well organised, friendly and most appreciative of our time and commitment to the Testing Programme. We felt genuinely valued! We would also like to commend the Students of IGS to you, who, without exception, were well behaved, courteous and respectful. Many students presented with excellent social and communication skills.

Suffice to say therefore that whilst we had thought that in volunteering we could offer, in these unprecedented times, something to IGS/the local community we certainly had not envisaged how interesting, enjoyable and rewarding the experience would be for ourselves! Our congratulations, admiration and thanks to all at IGS. We hope that staff and students enjoy a well earned Easter holidays.

Received: 21 March 2021

Very well done to everyone

For what it's worth, thank you from us and very well done to everyone at school who organised all that testing for the kids. It all looked incredibly smooth and efficient. The school always seems extremely organised anyway, but achieving that on such a scale must have meant a huge amount of extra work for a lot of people, at short notice as well. I think it was really impressive. Further to our conversation on Friday, if you do set up any group of friends of IGS or anything similar then I'm happy to be part of it, or to be a spare pair of hands if you ever need volunteers for anything else - including science clubs!

Received: 20 March 2021

Volunteers

Having been socially isolated for many months, it was a complete breath of fresh air to come and volunteer at IGS. It has been an absolute pleasure and such a positive experience from start to finish. The highlights for me were being part of your highly professional and seamless operation (which had the hallmarks of military precision!) , meeting the wonderful staff and impressive students at IGS. Talking to all the students I helped with their tests was such a privilege and they left a real mark on me; their maturity, manners and stoicism shone through and it was very uplifting for me to be around their energy and great spirits. I wish I could do more and would love to volunteer again at any opportunity. Thank you everyone for a wonderful experience.

Received: Thursday, March 18, 2021

Thank you

Just to say thank you all for such an amazing team effort to get all the children back in to school safely. I know my children are very glad to be back with their teachers (despite the masks!) and we are all very grateful for all that you have done to achieve this.

THANK YOU!

Received: 18 March 2021

Testing!

I have just finished my stint as processor! Please share the following with everyone:

I joined the army of volunteers - parents, grandparents and others from our community - to help IGS with its programme of testing for asymptomatic Covid-19. First of all I thank all my fellow volunteers for their support - often on top of family and work commitments. As an army I thought we were professional and willingly supported each other and the school - so thank you everyone.

The staff at IGS were incredible. The emergency field testing station in the sports hall was set up brilliantly and run so efficiently. The staff were always on hand to support volunteers and students and the atmosphere throughout was calm and cheerful. Another example of the extra mile all the staff have put in to support our students over the last difficult months.

Last but by no means least, a thank you to the students. They were co-operative and courteous throughout - a credit to their families, the school and most of all, to themselves. Thank you everyone for making an enormous additional burden on the school such a successful exercise.

Lindsey Wharmby, IGS Chair of Governors

Received: 17 March 2021

Thanks

I just wanted to say thank you to everyone involved in supporting the pupils so brilliantly over the past year (+) during the pandemic. Like all other communication that we've received from you all it is really clear, helpful and reassuring. The efforts that all staff have gone to to give the students the best possible chances have been over and above anything that could have been expected.

Thank you!

Received: 16 March 2021

Thank you - On-line Lessons

I would like to send my heart-felt thanks to all staff at school over your amazing efforts this term.

I am so very grateful for the strong and dedicated approach from IGS over the on-line lessons, from the tutor meetings, the lessons themselves, the communications we have received as parents and extra ideas such as the Wednesday afternoon screen free time before half term (which my boys used as intended) and the Peter Pan day for my year 8 son. Plus all the work behind the scenes that have made the term work best it can in these extreme and trying circumstances. I've just needed to soldier on with my own work during this time, and the structure provided by IGS to ensure my boys have continued some learning has been great. For my youngest who has received a few "non-submissions of work", it has been really useful to have those communicated as well via Class charts, so I have been able to then make sure he has at least gone back and posted the work retrospectively. Also, whenever I have had an odd question for school, these have been answered very promptly, and in particular, when I had some concerns about my eldest son during the first lock down, I received immediate help from school. I truly believe IGS has done the absolute best it can in these exceedingly trying circumstances for its pupils. You certainly have for my sons, and I imagine there will have been a tremendous amount of hard work and dedication from all staff to achieve that.

That said, I am so happy to have them back to school now, so please let me express additional thanks for such a well organised test programme to get everyone back. I have probably taken school too much for granted in the past and I will never do that again. You have been fabulous. Thank you!

Received: 12 March 2021

Year 9 Testing - Well Done

I just wanted to congratulate you and your team for such efficiency in the testing process. My son went in to be tested today. He was anxious about it (although pretending to be cool) and asked me to come with him. So I dropped him off and 5 minutes later he was back saying it was actually OK, which for a 14 year old teenager is high praise indeed.

Under impossible circumstances, you've set up a brilliant and efficient testing system and I thought that needed to be acknowledged.

Well done to you, your teachers, your admin support and your volunteers.

Received: 10 March 2021

Many thanks

I just wanted to pass on my sincere thanks to you all for the amazing work that you have been doing to ensure that our children continue to be schooled in the best way possible during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Unexpected demand after unexpected demand have been placed on you all and the challenge has been risen to seamlessly and without complaint. I truly hope that everyone recognises the amazing work that you have been doing and that nothing is made of yesterday's inadvertent data issue. I know that the parents I am in touch with, like me, think that the testing process you have put in place in such a short space of time is remarkable and incredibly slick and have no concerns at all if information about our child's test has gone slightly astray.

Received: 10 March 2021

Thank you

I just want to say you are all PHENOMENAL and I sincerely hope there hasn't been a single word of criticism about this unforeseen Data event.

The way you have handled and stepped up and adapted to the relentless changes of policy and expectations of you and your staff is beyond awe inspiring. . .

Thank you, thank you, thank you for handling this last year and all it's thrown at you with the dignity, efficiency and good humour that you've to a man and woman shown.

Received: 10 March 2021

IGS testing programme

I have no doubt that yesterday posed challenges which were not needed for you and your team. However, I would just like to say that I am over-awed at the sterling effort which has been made to ensure that the entire Covid testing process is seamless for the children. As if the year hasn't been difficult enough for the education profession, the job of Covid testers was thrust upon you. The set up in the hall and the efficiency with which it runs is a true testimony to the dedication of your staff. No doubt that the next educational year will be easier (yet not without Covid challenges), but until then, please communicate to your staff that their effort has not gone unnoticed and unappreciated.

Received: 10 March 2021

Thank you - Mental Health Webinar

I wanted to let you know how grateful I was for the presentation you gave on well-being and mental health.

I was so impressed by your presentation, it was one of the best webinars I had viewed and I have seen many professionally as a GP.

It is great to know that our children's mental health is so well supported by you all at school.

Thank you again for a great webinar

Received: 01 March 2021

Please click [here](#) to see our webinar on Mental Health.