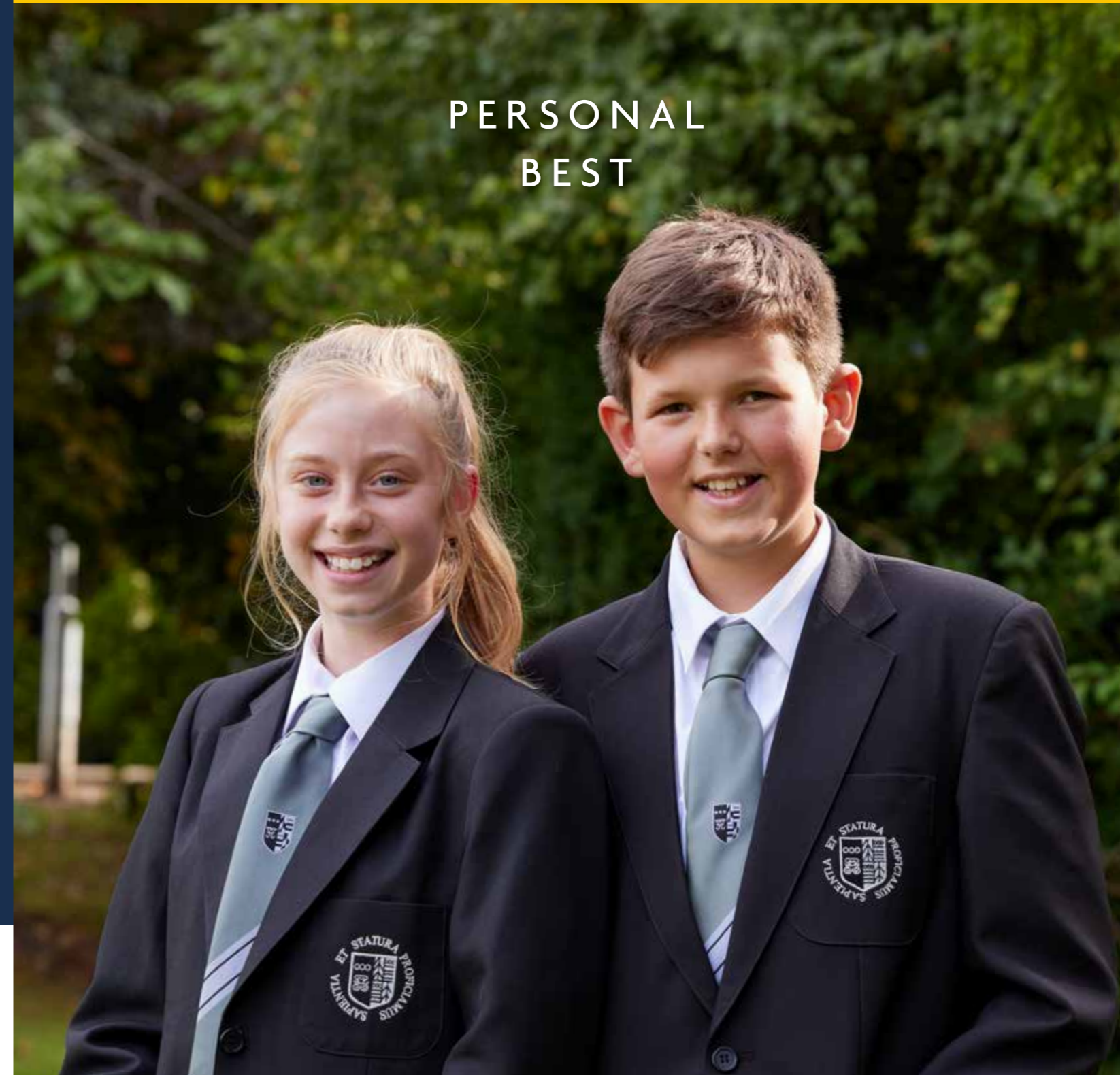




# ILKLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

A MOORLANDS LEARNING TRUST ACADEMY

PERSONAL  
BEST



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# HEADTEACHER'S WELCOME

Ilkley Grammar School is an outstanding comprehensive school and we pride ourselves on the quality of education, pastoral care and extensive enrichment opportunities provided to our students so that they succeed, thrive and achieve their Personal Best.

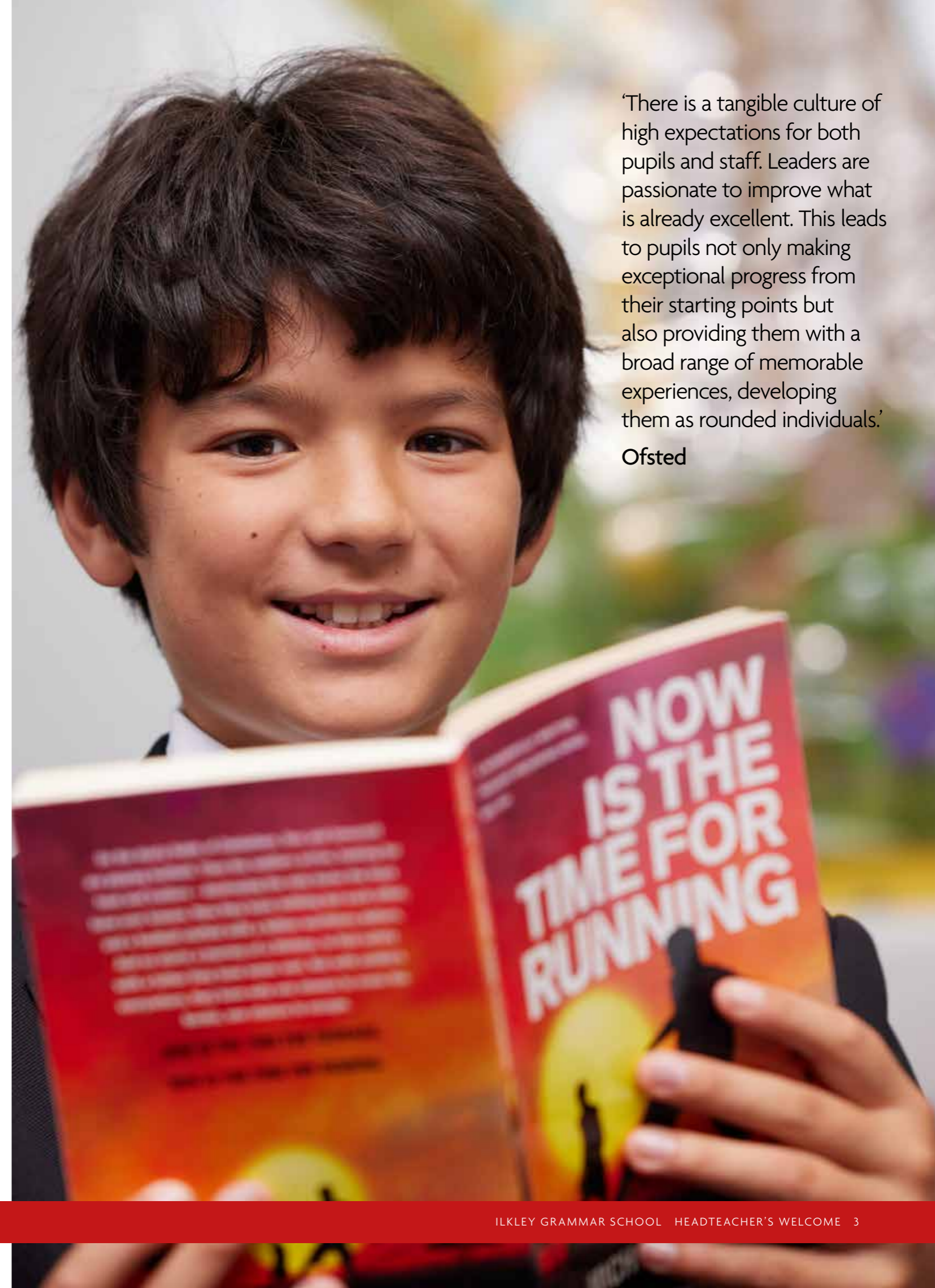
As the founding school of Moorlands Learning Trust, our reputation for excellence is widely recognised, with our academic results placing us comfortably amongst the top 14% of schools in the country. Our Ofsted inspection in March 2017 confirmed us as an 'Outstanding' school in all areas of our provision, and we were named as the 'Top Comprehensive in the North of England' by The Sunday Times Schools Guide in 2018.

Whilst there is a strong focus on challenging and supporting students to achieve their academic potential, we are equally committed to developing young adults who have the skills and qualities to make a positive difference through the lives they lead and the choices they make. Learners flourish when they feel happy, safe, respected, cared for and valued and we work hard to create a warm, tolerant and inclusive environment where attributes such as kindness and empathy are championed, well-being and personal development are prioritised, and individual needs are met. Indeed, whilst we are really proud of the results our students achieve and the progress they make regardless of their starting points, we are also proud of the huge range of extra-curricular clubs and activities, leadership opportunities, trips and visits on offer which help to shape character, build confidence, create memories and support personal growth.

On a personal level, I feel very privileged to lead such a wonderful school and warmly invite you to visit to see the excellent provision we have to offer. I look forward to meeting you.



Carly Purnell  
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

# 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, courage, open-mindedness, honesty and pride so that students develop into responsible, compassionate young people, fully equipped for a successful life ahead.

Our curriculum dedicates time to supporting students to achieve their Personal Best with a bespoke Personal Best Time (PBT) programme. This aims to instil core values, as well as develop important characteristics and attributes which enable students to be successful students, excellent friends and exceptional citizens.



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**

'IGS truly has helped my daughter achieve her Personal Best and I am incredibly grateful to the staff, who work phenomenally hard in normal times to help students achieve their goals, but who really have gone even further 'above and beyond' over the past 18 months.'

**Parent of a former year 13 student**



# EXCEPTIONAL TEACHING THAT SUPPORTS AND CHALLENGES ALL

At Ilkley Grammar School, we believe in fostering curiosity, scholarship and a lifelong love of learning.

We recognise that each and every student is unique and therefore our approach to teaching and learning is personalised and inclusive but also challenging to ensure learning is both deep and durable for all. We pride ourselves on knowing our students' strengths and areas for development, utilising the most up to date pedagogical evidence and research 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, stimulate interest and develop expertise. 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 including resilience, independence and self-regulation. Our commitment to digital technology means all students have an iPad as part of their school equipment allowing for innovative and responsive teaching. This ensures that students achieve high levels of academic success and are also 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**

# A WORLD CLASS CURRICULUM

It is our mission to provide a world class curriculum for all, giving our students access to “powerful knowledge” which promotes academic excellence, inspires curiosity, deepens understanding and enables them to have the luxury of choice for their futures.

Learning is carefully sequenced to allow students to know more and do more, and our approaches are underpinned by the principles of cognitive science in order to support retention and recall and ‘make learning stick’.

All students have a balanced and challenging curriculum, which provides strong academic foundations with the flexibility to tailor provision to meet students’ needs. There is a genuine commitment to personalisation which can be seen through the range of options and pathways at all levels. This includes our bespoke year 9 curriculum which allows the opportunity to study new courses in computer science, business, philosophy and law, alongside specialist technology, creative arts, PE and additional language options. This broadens students’ learning experiences and helps them to make informed decisions for GCSE and beyond.

We have the highest expectations of all and provide an outstanding education, which is enhanced by extensive extra-curricular opportunities, to support all students to achieve their Personal Best. We develop students through our ‘Personal Development’ programme where our students learn about community, leadership and tolerance. Our curriculum leads to exceptional levels of achievement, 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 10 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 more demanding qualifications, our students continue to excel at GCSE with highlights including:

- One in every four grades (25%) awarded at grades 9-8 in both 2019 and 2020; this is the new standard of exceptional attainment. In 2021, this increased to more than one in every three grades (34.3%) at the highest standard.
- Over 40% of all grades at grades 7-9 (equivalent to the old A/A\*), double the national average, in both 2019 and 2020. In 2021, over half of all grades were at this threshold (52.3%).
- Almost nine out of 10 grades in 2019 and 2020 were at grade 4 and above (average 89.4%) with 93.9% of all grades meeting this standard in 2021.
- In 2021, 20 students achieved 8 or more GCSEs at the very highest grade 9.

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 very best grades of which they are capable.

Our commitment to achievement and aspiration for all can be seen in our significantly positive progress scores which consistently place IGS amongst the leading comprehensive schools in the country. Indeed, based on the progress of all students in 2019 (the last year where national progress scores are available), including students with Special Educational Needs, our Progress 8 score was +.58; this placed IGS in the highest “well above average” category in line with the top 14% of all state schools nationally, including selective 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

# 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.

At Ilkley Grammar School, we offer a range of interventions and personalised learning strategies to ensure that every student enjoys exceptional, inclusive experiences. Interventions range from individual pupil passports informing teachers of students' specific needs to support quality first teaching strategies, to in-class support and targeted interventions. Where a student's needs have an impact on their learning, we work in collaboration to identify and respond through time-bound interventions such as literacy, numeracy and dyslexia support. Our inclusive learning hub provides holistic support for students who, at times, require a smaller and more nurturing environment and offers a safe space and retreat as required for students with Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs.

In September 2019, we opened our 12 place School-Led Resourced Provision (SRP) for students with an EHCP for an Autistic Spectrum Disorder and associated needs. Our resourced provision is used to support students to develop a range of personal skills in preparation for adulthood, receive targeted interventions that are detailed within their EHCPs and access enhanced adult support to enable them to succeed in a predominantly mainstream curriculum.



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

**Ofsted**

'IGS is a large school, but it is friendly and welcoming. I feel like I matter as an individual and staff care for me. My Head of Year and my teachers are always supportive and help me to achieve my Personal Best.'

**Year 9 Student**

# OUTSTANDING PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

**The range of Personal Development opportunities on offer at IGS is vast, making school life more meaningful, substantial and rewarding, whilst also preparing students for the future.**

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 run junior and senior choirs, a senior orchestra, a year 7 and 8 pop and rock club and a year 12 'collective'. A team of peripatetic teachers also deliver instrumental and vocal tuition on an individual or paired basis.

In addition, drama run two key stage 3 drama clubs, the Backstagers group, a musical theatre and devising club and there is an annual school production which in 2022 is 'We Will Rock You'. 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 participation in external competitions such as Youth Speaks or by harnessing in-house expertise through clubs designed to develop more specialist interests such as coding, strategy games or art, 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.

Personal Development opportunities are organised into 8 interconnecting categories which include 'Charity and Community', 'Next Steps and Work', 'Health and Well-being' and 'Tolerance and Respect'; these are shared with students and parents via the learning platform Showbie. Opportunities are also promoted at the highly popular Student Leadership and Enrichment Fayre early in the autumn term.

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



'The school provides a rich tapestry of opportunities including some fantastic leadership roles, charity-fund raising events and extra-curricular clubs. I feel my children are very lucky to be at IGS as they have the freedom to grow and develop as young people, to give back, make a positive difference and to shine.'

**Parents of children in years 8, 10 and Post-16**

# 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 numerous theatre, art and fieldwork trips, both locally and further afield.

In addition, we offer transformative experiences through the Duke of Edinburgh awards which help to develop communication skills, confidence, leadership and teamwork. For older students, we also work in partnership with World Challenge to provide opportunities which are simply extraordinary. In 2022, there are two expeditions: one to Nepal and the other to Eswatini and Kruger. These opportunities, financed by student fundraising, provide powerful life-changing experiences.

## 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.



'Challenge and Celebration Week is awesome! You enjoy quality time with your friends and really get to know a wider range of people. Being challenged in a different context helps to develop you as a person.'

**Year 11 student**

'IGS does not just add value in terms of results and qualifications. It does so much more than that! I have developed as a leader and I have accessed a wealth of activities, clubs, trips and opportunities which have enriched my time here.'

**Year 13 student**

# LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

The importance of developing students as leaders is fully embedded across the school through our unique iLeader programme which promotes over 30 leadership roles annually. Students have many opportunities for their voices to be heard through student questionnaires, tutor group representation and the Student Council. We see leadership potential in all of our students and the wealth of opportunities that we provide ensure students develop into confident and well-rounded individuals.

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 experiences available across all key stages with groups such as the anti-bullying ambassadors who in 2020 published 'Respect', an anthology of creative writing and essays with contributions from students and celebrities including Simon Armitage, Alastair Campbell and Michael Rosen.

The influential, 18 strong, post-16 Student Leadership Team (SLT) is led by two Head Students and five deputies each year. Once appointed, our post-16 Student Leadership Team receives 'Leadership in Action' training and attends a bi-annual conference as part of the Red Kite Alliance to share best practice in student leadership.

We develop academic leaders through 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. In 2021-22, the new 'Mental Health' iLeaders will receive accredited training which will equip them to provide appropriate peer-to-peer support.

Sports Leaders coach in-school teams and also link with primary schools to encourage participation and future sporting excellence. The long-established 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 and genuinely have their voices heard. Their feedback, ideas and solutions help to make Ilkley Grammar School not only outstanding, but a special place to learn and achieve.



'The school offers endless opportunities and experiences to unlock students' full potential. It genuinely places importance on wider personal development and happiness, and my child has thrived as a result.'

**Parents of a year 11 student**

'I really have grown in confidence since joining IGS. I have loved being an iLeader and being involved in the Model United Nations.'

**Year 10 student**

# PREPARATION FOR A SUCCESSFUL FUTURE

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

Students and staff have a proven track record of working together to achieve great success. Post-16 was officially graded as Outstanding as part of our Ofsted Inspection in 2017 and since then outcomes have continued to improve alongside a significant year-on-year growth in numbers, attracting students from across the region including those transferring from private and selective schools, as well as The Skipton Academy, our partner school within Moorlands Learning Trust.

The grades our students achieve are consistently significantly higher than national figures and in 2021 a record 26% of A-level grades were at A\*, 51% were A\*/A, 74% were A\*-B and 90% A\*-C. These outcomes create exceptional opportunities for our students, many of whom progress to varied and exciting destinations including Oxbridge (a record 8 places in 2021 and 27 since 2016) and Russell Group universities (75 students in 2021), studying on competitive courses such as medicine, dentistry, veterinary science, law and engineering, as well as securing higher level apprenticeships at some of the world's most reputable companies (Channel 4, PwC and Morrisons for example in 2021).

We offer outstanding teaching delivered by expert and inspirational staff, specialist pastoral care and an extremely wide range of over 30 academic and vocational courses which enable all students to flourish. This is also complemented by an exciting range of personal development and enrichment opportunities including sports leadership qualifications, work experience, a plethora of leadership opportunities, the highly personalised Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), a Post-16 discussion group and access to an impressive range of visiting speakers through the *iTalks* and *Cutting Edge* programmes.

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 whilst, at all times, growing in both wisdom and stature in line with our Latin motto: *sapientia et statura proficiamus*.



“Our Post-16 community at IGS is an inclusive, welcoming and encouraging environment, where each student, regardless of which school they’ve come from, is able to thrive and grow, both academically and personally. Our time in Post-16 is enriched by an abundance of opportunities to get involved in the school community and to develop individual academic and extra-curricular interests, as well as many leadership roles.

Whilst our community is large, students always feel supported by the teachers in all aspects of school life. Our excellent pastoral team never fail to care for the students and their well-being; their door is always open, and they are ready to help the students overcome any barriers. IGS’s Post-16, with its outstanding teaching, diligent pastoral team and its multitude of development opportunities, forms well-rounded individuals who are well-prepared for any challenges that lie ahead.”

**James Sabin and Freya Williams – Head Students 2021-22**

