



PARENT/CARER BULLETIN

15 December 2022

FORTNIGHTLY HIGHLIGHTS

As we approach the festive break, I would like to thank parents and carers for your continued support of the school. It has been another busy and successful term with many students benefitting from our extensive extra-curriculum offer. Highlights include:

- 🌿 250 students taking part in creative arts clubs and rehearsals at lunchtime and after school, as well as events such as The Battle of The Bands and The Countdown to Christmas Concert
- 🌿 29 post-16 students who have completed the Mental Health First Aid training delivered at IGS
- 🌿 225 students participating in extra-curricular football
- 🌿 176 students participating in extra-curricular netball
- 🌿 85 students involved in extra-curricular rugby
- 🌿 200 students involved in a wide range of other sports including cross-country, badminton, hockey, dance, dodgeball and volleyball
- 🌿 670 applications for leadership opportunities with 600 students successfully appointed to iLeader positions
- 🌿 A range of trips and visits including: all of year 7 enjoying a day of team-building activities at Nell Bank; the Ingleborough Residential involving 85 students from all year groups; 48 year 10 and 12 students who visited Coutances as part of the French Exchange; 52 students who visited the Battlefields of Belgium; 74 students who have visited the theatre and 119 students who recently visited MathsCity in Leeds where they developed their enjoyment and appreciation for the power and importance of maths

I would also like to remind you that term finishes at 12.30pm on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December which is a non-uniform day. We return after the holiday on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2023 which is a week A.

I hope you and your families have a restful Christmas and I wish you all a very Happy New Year.

**Carly Purnell**

Headteacher Awards

Congratulations to the following students who have been awarded the Headteacher Award over the last fortnight: Noah Shilton, Ethan Abbott, George Buckley, James Nice, Dylan Hurst, Lola Bowness and Kierat Cheema, Olivia Coldwell, Luke Morris, Emma Docherty. Students have received the award for demonstrating school values, being positive role models and making a positive difference to others in line with our school vision.

Creative Arts

Well done to all (over 150) students involved in the Christmas Concert on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December. This was a lovely festive event, celebrating fantastic performances from students in all year groups. With mince pies and mulled wine served by our PTA and anti-bullying group, it really did get us in the Christmas spirit!

Congratulations to the students below on their recent ABRSM graded exam success:

- 🎵 Emelyn McCann: Grade 7 Violin with Distinction
- 🎵 Emily Stidworthy: Grade 8 Piano with Distinction
- 🎵 Dylan Hurst: Grade 5 Musical Theatre with Distinction
- 🎵 Natasha Wilson: Grade 3 Violin with Merit

**Year 13 students:**

- 🎵 Esme Gutch winner of the Fanny Waterman Senior Recital Piano Prize at the Wharfedale Festival 2022
- 🎵 Leo Lord Cloke- Grade 8 singing Distinction
- 🎵 Emily Stidworthy – Grade 8 piano Distinction



The IGS School Christmas Card 2022- image by Kari Butterfield: IGS staff



Cold weather uniform adaptations

During the periods of cold weather in the winter months students are allowed to wear additional layers if the classrooms are not at a suitable temperature.

**This will mean that students can wear:**

- ❄️ An IGS branded hoodie (Inside or outside of the blazer)
- ❄️ Any non-branded black or grey round neck or v neck jumper
- ❄️ A coat

NB: Non-IGS hoodies are not permitted



## Arrangements for GCSE, AS and A level exams and assessments in summer 2023

As last year, students will be given formulae and equation sheets in GCSE mathematics, physics, and combined science exams. However, there will be no further adaptations for other subjects such as advanced information or the trimming of syllabus content.

From 2023 onwards, GCSE modern foreign languages exams do not have to test unfamiliar vocabulary. Exams may still contain unfamiliar vocabulary, but exam boards can give meanings for words that are not on their vocabulary lists, if they think this is appropriate for the task and intended level of challenge.

Exam boards have recently published their exam timetables for summer 2023 which are available on their websites. This year, there continues to be a greater gap between exams in the same subject than was the case pre-pandemic in order to help students' revision between papers.

**Exam boards have also included contingency sessions on the afternoons of 8 and 15 June, and on 28 June.** These days would be used in the unlikely event that exams had to be moved because they could not take place when planned. If you have a child sitting examinations this summer, please make a note of these dates and do not make any arrangements which could not be changed.

## Cost of Living Support

As we approach the Christmas holidays, please be aware of BMDC's cost of living website [Cost of Living Bradford - Helping Bradford District residents get through the Cost of Living Crisis](#). There is also a downloadable PDF document of the information on the site and a Warm Spaces Directory which shows places that families can access to keep warm and have a drink. All days and opening times are displayed for each venue.

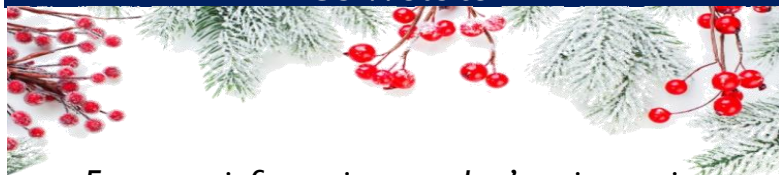
## Goodbye and Welcome!

David Urwin, teacher of Computing and Year 10 Progress and Experience Leader (PrExL) leaves IGS at the end of this term to take up a new opportunity at Ethos Academy Trust working with students with SEMH needs. We thank him for his commitment and service to IGS and wish him well in his new role.

We are delighted to announce that Rebecca Clift has been internally promoted to the position of year 10 PrExL from January. Rebecca knows the year group well as a teacher of drama and as a current year 10 form tutor to 10RHC. Following a transition period, 10RHC will have a new form tutor – Mr Oliver James- who joins IGS as an experienced teacher of computing.

We also welcome in January, Miss Shannon Riley as Head of Media Studies who is relocating from London.

## IGS Website



For more information on what's going on in and around Ilkley Grammar School, don't forget to keep a check on the IGS website in 'News' [HERE](#) and 'Community' [HERE](#)

## Brain Day

Year 13 Psychology students attended on Friday 9th December - it was a massive success! Students had the opportunity to touch a sheep's brain and watch it be dissected. Dr Guy Sutton commented that Ilkley Grammar students were some of the most engaged and enthused students he has come across- he delivers these sessions all over England – so quite the compliment.



## Sporting Successes

### WC 5<sup>th</sup> Dec

- Over 20 IGS Sports iLeaders have contributed to a successful first term of the Wharfe Valley Primary Sports League. Congratulations to Ashland's Primary School who won the Quicksticks Hockey tournament!
- Y9 boys' football enjoyed a home nations tournament due to a match cancellation. Well done to Northern Ireland who won the tournament on the night.

### WC 12<sup>th</sup> Dec

- Y9 football Nw Leeds CV3 Vs St Mary's Menston 2-1 and Ralph Thoresby 4-0
- Y10 Football ESFA RD 5: IGS 2 v Salendine Nook 0
- \*IGS made history and progress through to the last 16 of the national competition. The squad showed such resilience on the night to battle through and get a victory against a very strong Salendine Nook.





**ILKLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL IS RANKED TOP COMPREHENSIVE SECONDARY SCHOOL IN THE NORTH OF ENGLAND FOR GCSE IN THE SUNDAY TIMES AND OVERALL SECOND PLACE IN THE NORTH FOR GCSE AND A-LEVEL COMBINED**

The publication of The Sunday Times Parent Power guide 2023 has confirmed Ilkley Grammar School is the North of England's highest attaining comprehensive secondary school based on GCSE results. Over 51% of all GCSE grades were at the highest grades 9-7 which makes IGS the highest ranking non-selective school across the region.

**NORTH STATE SECONDARY SCHOOLS RANKED BY GCSE % 9-7 (non-selective)**

<b>1. Ilkley Grammar School</b>	<b>Ilkley</b>	<b>51.4%</b>
2. Fulford School	York	48.7%
3. All Saints Roman Catholic School	York	47.7%
4. High Storrs School	Sheffield	47%
5. St Aidens C of E School	Harrogate	46.5%
6. Silverdale School	Sheffield	45.3%
7. Tipton School	Sheffield	44.6%
8. Harrogate Grammar School	Harrogate	44.4%
9. Horsforth School	Leeds	44.3%
10. Outwood Academy Easingwold	York	42.9%

The Sunday Times' Schools Guide 2023 names the top performing and highest-achieving schools across the country and is billed as "the definitive guide to secondary schools". Its Parent Power overall tables ranks schools on their average performance using a A-Level/IB and GCSE outcomes from summer 2022. Based on the overall measure, Ilkley Grammar School ranked 5<sup>th</sup> overall in the north when selective schools are included and an impressive second place overall when comparisons are made with comprehensive schools, just behind All Saints RC School in York who took this year's top comprehensive spot in the north of England. The full table is as follows:

**Top 12 state and grammar schools in the north**

- Ripon Grammar School (selective)
- Heckmondwike Grammar School (selective)
- The North Halifax Grammar School (selective)
- All Saints RC School, York (comprehensive)
- Ilkley Grammar School (comprehensive)**
- Silverdale School, Sheffield (comprehensive)
- Fulford School, York (comprehensive)
- Horsforth School, Leeds (comprehensive)
- Archbishop Holgate's School, York (comprehensive)
- High Storrs School, Sheffield (comprehensive)
- St Aidan's CofE High School, Harrogate (comprehensive)
- Prince Henry's Grammar School, Otley (comprehensive)



At A-level, IGS 6<sup>th</sup> form students also achieved exceptional outcomes with nearly 1/4 of all grades (24.2%) graded at A\* and nearly half of all A-level grades (48.6%) graded at A\*/A, the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest out of all northern comprehensive schools and ahead of two leading selective schools included within the tables. In addition, nearly 3/4 of all grades (74.5%) were at A\*-B meaning that overall IGS Post-16 ranked as the 4<sup>th</sup> most successful comprehensive 6<sup>th</sup> Form in the north of England in The Sunday Times and the highest performing provider across Leeds and Bradford.

We are very proud of the exceptional standards which our students of all abilities have achieved and are delighted that IGS has been ranked overall in the top two comprehensives across the north and the highest-ranking comprehensive school across the whole of West Yorkshire.

Whilst The Sunday Times' rankings are only based on attainment and are a narrow measure of success, they do recognise academic achievement at the highest level at GCSE and A-level and reflect the school's strong commitment to academic excellence, as well as equity and inclusion. When viewed alongside IGS's outstanding progress score of +.64 (where almost 2 out of 3 GCSE results were a whole grade higher across the curriculum than the results of similar ability students nationally), they are a tribute to everybody's hard work – students, staff and our supportive parent/carer body – and show the genuine realisation of Personal Best. They also reflect the school's ability to maintain high expectations, strong pastoral care and the specialist teaching of the curriculum, including through high-quality remote learning which IGS was well-placed to provide from the start of the pandemic as an established iPad school.



PRIDE



RESPECT



COURAGE



RESPONSIBILITY



KINDNESS



RESILIENCE