



FORTNIGHTLY HIGHLIGHTS

HEADTEACHER'S UPDATES

STRIKE ACTION:

As you may be aware from media coverage, the NEU (National Education Union) have declared national and regional strike action which is scheduled to take place on the following dates:

- Wednesday, 1 February
- Tuesday, 28 February
- Wednesday, 15 March
- Thursday, 16 March

The strike is happening because of a national dispute between the unions and the Government over teachers' pay, and not because of any issues at our school.

We are currently in the process of assessing the impact which strike action may have and considering different options, but NEU members have the legal right to not disclose whether they intend to strike which makes advanced planning difficult. We are aware that the NEU is the largest teaching union at IGS with significant membership and, therefore, strike action is likely to necessitate at least partial closure.

In the interim, I would ask that you be mindful of the strike dates and, if necessary, make childcare arrangements. We will communicate the plans in full as soon as possible and will, of course, prioritise places for vulnerable students.

I apologise in advance for any disruption to students' education.

Ofsted Visit: 19th and 20th January 2023

Thank you for your support during our recent ungraded Ofsted inspection. Throughout the two days, our staff and students really did the school proud and the small inspection team positively commented on a wide range of strengths, our summary of which is below:

- The ambition and sequencing of the curriculum across the subjects inspected in depth – maths, English, science and business
- Expert subject knowledge and pedagogy of teachers
- Some highly effective use of Showbie to enable independence and review of learning.
- The ambition for SEND, careers and Post-16
- Students feel well supported. They feel safe and know how to stay safe.
- In lessons, students were focused and engaged and “with their teachers”. Overall, they were polite, courteous and well mannered.
- There is a healthy respect for difference and a culture of tolerance.
- Student leadership is very strong and students are really positive about the range of experiences on offer.
- Leaders' positive engagement with staff over workload.

As you are probably aware, we are not able to share the outcome until all quality assurance checks have been completed and the school receives the final letter from the Lead Inspector - this process is likely to take several weeks.

Whilst Ofsted does not dictate the work that we do at IGS, we do welcome their feedback and do try to positively use the inspection framework as a force for further improvement. We will share their written feedback (this will take the form of a short letter) in due course.

Kind regards

Carly Purnell
Headteacher



PRIDE



RESPECT



COURAGE



RESPONSIBILITY



KINDNESS



RESILIENCE

Sporting Successes and Updates

WC 2nd Jan

- 🏆 **Senior Netball A team** 14-9 Skipton Girls
- 🏆 **Senior Netball B team** 6-14 Skipton Girls

WC 9th Jan

- 🏆 **U14A Netball** 25-5 Skipton Girls
- 🏆 **U14B Netball** 10-8 Skipton Girls
- 🏆 Rugby – Year 7, 8 & 9 played Harrogate Grammar School at IRUFC. Total of 120 students (both schools) playing at once
- 🏆 **Year 10 Football** – English Schools round 6 – Ilkley Grammar played Blessed Trinity Academy (from Burnley) on Monday 9th January. Ilkley managed to secure their place in the next round with a 4-1 victory. This is the furthest any Ilkley team has progressed in this national competition. At the start of the year 687 schools entered this competition and Ilkley Grammar School are now down to the last 16.
- 🏆 **Year 10 Football** – League duty resumed this week with a tough game away to Horsforth school. Freddie Smith scored a last-minute goal to win the game 3-2

WC 16th Jan

- 🏆 **Rugby** – Years 7 & 8 played Woodhouse Grove, both home and away
- 🏆 36 runners from IGS ran in the **Bradford Schools Cross Country Championships**, with some very strong individual performances helping to secure team silver medals in the Junior Girls and Inter Boys races and gold medals in the Junior Boys and Inter Girls races. 32 runners have been selected to run for Bradford at the West Yorkshire Cross Country Championships in February.



We are very grateful to the PTA who since last autumn have provided funding for a significant number of items which continue to significantly improve student experience around school. Here is the list of things that will be installed/in place this term:

1. 20 sets of durable queuing barriers for use in the Armitage café to improve the queuing experience during our busy lunchtimes (arriving Wednesday 1st February)
2. A contribution to durable outdoor galvanised fencing outside Armitage which will have multiple uses over the coming years (in place).
3. A Portable PA system (2 speakers) for use by Creative Arts and for other school events (date TBC)
4. A set of microphones to further improve sound quality in school productions (date TBC)
5. Additional contribution to the PTA bursary fund to support participation on trips and visits (in place)
6. Contribution to a set of digital *Reader Pens* to enhance support for student with exam access arrangements (date TBC)
7. Funding to invest in inspirational quotes / statements which link to the new values to go around school which will continue to enhance the school environment (in development)
8. Funding for 30 lockable metal frames to go in toilets in Armitage and on D Floor to contain posters with positive messages around wellbeing, student support and the school values (installed)

The PTA raise a fantastic amount of money each year to improve the IGS student experience. The PTA team is going to be changing this year. If you would be interested in joining the PTA they would really like to hear from you at PTA@ilkleygs.co.uk

***Don't forget **the PTA Wine tasting on Friday 3rd February** – this Friday is your last chance to get your tickets before the event next week.

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](#)

Headteacher Awards

Congratulations to the following students who have been awarded the Headteacher Award over the last fortnight: Rebecca Haestier 9TH, Will McCutcheon 10OJ and Artur Korol 12LR, Bella Paraschiv 7LJD, Rhys Riley 9DJJ, Isobel Tate-Smith 11SPN and Lucy White 12LSL. 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 Successes

- 🎵 Callum Whitton (Y12) won the Keighley Rotary Club Young Musician Competition and is through to the next round
- 🎵 Holly Fox (Y12) Grade 8 Saxophone- Distinction
- 🎵 Elenore Haywood (Y9) Grade 5 Violin- Merit

School Production: The Sound of Music

Tickets are on sale for this years' school production of The Sound of Music. These can be purchased on ParentPay. The performances are Tuesday 7th, Wednesday 8th and Thursday 9th February starting at 7pm (doors will be open from 6.45). Refreshments will be available to purchase before the performances and during the interval. Please bring cash for these purchases.

PTA



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