



FORTNIGHTLY HIGHLIGHTS

Thank you for raising money for **Children in Need – IGS raised £2450.50!**

On Wednesday 22nd November, we enjoyed another fantastic evening at the King’s Hall in Ilkley honouring the achievements of the year 11 class of 2023. The whole evening was another excellent showcase for Ilkley Grammar School, as students proudly collected their GCSE certificates to the warm applause of friends, family and IGS staff. It was clear that many students had achieved their Personal Best and the months of hard work and determination had paid dividends.

As a year group, the 2023 ‘Purple Ties’ achieved a very strong set of GCSE results which were in line with the top 20% of schools across the country with a wide variety of superb individual accomplishments and achievements. I felt very proud and privileged as Headteacher to celebrate our students’ success with their families and recognise academic achievement, alongside those who consistently model our Personal Best values - Respect, Courage, Responsibility, Kindness, Resilience and Pride – as well as those who give service to the community, who make a positive difference and who are positive ambassadors for our school. A huge well done to all our students for their individual and collective achievements and whatever their next steps, we wish them the very best -they have a bright future ahead of them. We will publish a more detailed article and the full list of this year’s prize winners on our website in due course.



From last year’s Year 11 to this year’s Year 11, our “Red Ties” have completed their mock examinations over the last two weeks. The students have responded positively, showing great levels of commitment, determination, and resilience under the pressure of timed examination conditions. Students will receive their mock results on Monday 8th January. This will be followed by Year 11 Parents’ Evening on Wednesday 10th January 2024 where feedback will be given on their strengths, as well as any misconceptions and areas which require attention over the coming months.

Following on from Presentation Evening, we also had our Music Showcase and Battle of the Bands held at the King’s Hall last Thursday. It was an amazing display of talent across all year groups. Whilst I was blown away by the quality of the winning band, Shaded, there were so many great, confident live performances including the year 7 band, The Squidwashers, and the runners up: Ducttape and BLT. Congratulations to all of the performers!

As we begin the Countdown to Christmas, the final edition of this term’s Parent/Carer Bulletin will be published on Friday 15th December when school closes for the festive break at 12.30pm. Friday 15th December will also be our non-uniform Christmas Jumper Day

Best Wishes,

Carly Purnell
Headteacher

Headteacher’s Awards

Congratulations to the following students who have been awarded the Headteacher Award over the last fortnight: Eesa Ahmed 7RL; Lola Summerson 1 IJS; Max Gibson 13LR; Jacob Dawson-Watts 13KF; Niamh Goodall 9ERE; Saskia White 9PSW; James Cumberland 1 IJS; Ebony Gonzalez 13AAH; Summer Smith 13AAH; Lillia Brow 13MO

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.



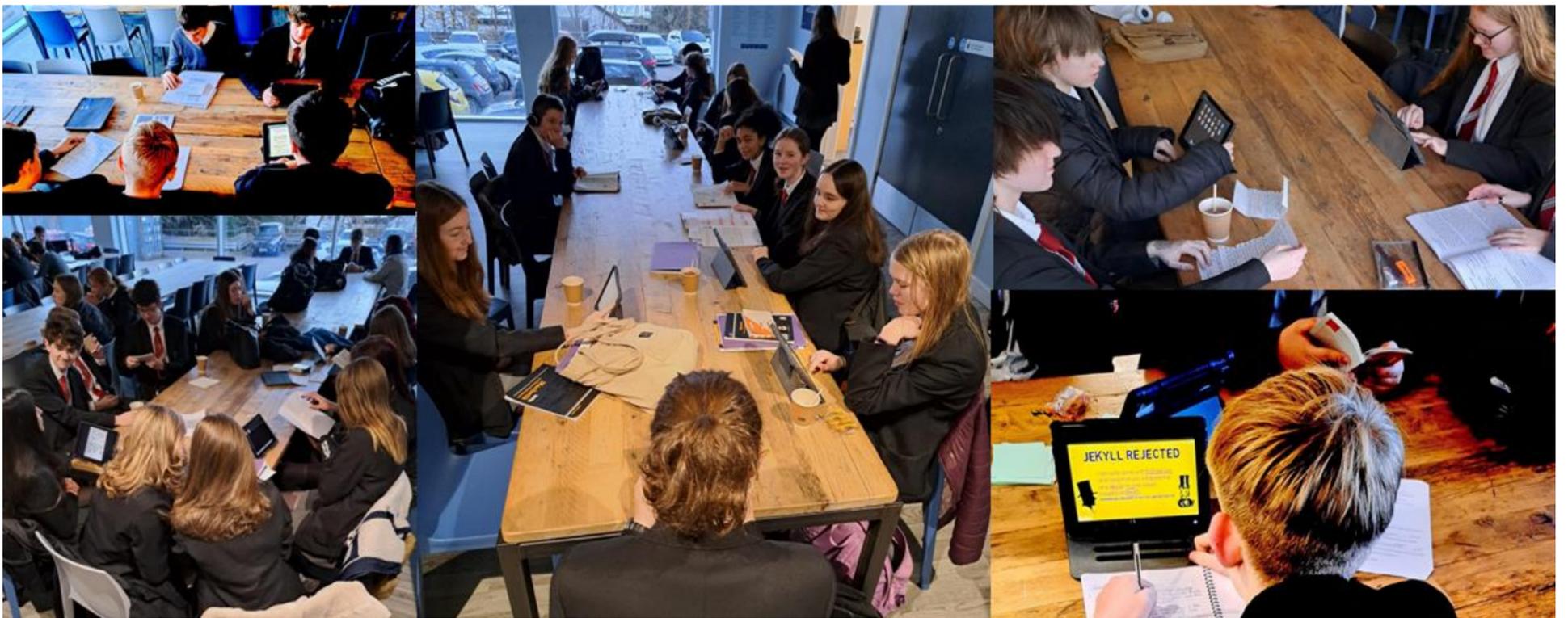
World Kindness Day and Week in November

November saw ‘World Kindness Day/Week’ when we celebrated a week of random acts of kindness with KS3 & 4 students.



Heads of Year and Progress and Experience Leaders (PrExLs) watched out for acts of kindness from students in their respective year groups and awarded 5 students from their year Kindness Award certificates. Students were awarded on the basis of always being kind and courteous to friends, staff, and their peers, as well as things they do outside of school to be kind and help others. First to receive their kindness certificates were Year 11s: Naomi Spink, Oliver Pacey, Amanda O’Conner, Reece Ellerton, and Toby Lucas. Watch out for the next Parent Bulletin to see the winners from other year groups as they receive their Kindness Certificates in their forthcoming assemblies next week.





Subject teachers, Tutors and Curriculum Leaders joined the Year 11 team in hosting "Rise and Revise" sessions in Armitage Cafe throughout the mock exams. Students have been given the opportunity to enjoy a quiet space to revise, a sweet treat and warm drink before their mocks. It was great to see so many students showcasing their commitment to learning. Well done Year 11!

Creative Arts Updates, the Countdown to Christmas invite and an exciting opportunity with Opera North!



Over 70 students set off for Ingleborough Hall on 16th November, to spend two days **rehearsing for the school production 'Grease'**. It was a joy to see students of all ages working together on the choreography, rehearsing songs and blocking scenes. One student said: *"The trip was amazing. I've never been to Ingleborough Hall with IGS before, but it is a trip I will not forget"* (Suki Hutchinson, Y10). Another commented: *"The Ingleborough residential was a unique experience unlike any other school show rehearsal... The magic of combining rehearsed song choreography with the band was nothing short of astounding. I loved every minute of it and cannot wait to relive it once more."* (Justin Derla, Y12)

Grease will be performed on the evenings of Monday 5th – Thursday 8th February inclusive. Tickets will go on sale after Christmas.





You are warmly invited to join us for our annual **Countdown to Christmas** event, on **Monday 11th December, 6:30pm** at **St Margaret's Church, Ilkley**. As the event is free of charge, we do politely request that you give what you can to our retiring collection. Money collected will be shared between school charities and the charity chosen by St Margaret's Church. Members of the PTA team and school charity groups will be present on the night serving mulled wine and other delicious Christmas treats (so make sure you bring cash!) It promises to be a wonderful evening full of festivities, guaranteed to get you into the Christmas spirit!



Last Thursday 23 November 130 IGS pupils and an audience of well over 400 people came together at The King's Hall, Ilkley for the **IGS Music Showcase**. The audience were treated to a fantastic showcase of supreme musical talent by IGS pupils across nine bands, the IGS Orchestra, Lord of the Strings, the Music Theatre Club, the Pop Choir, the Ukulele Group and the Jazz Band. Saskia and Niamh (both year 9) were the perfect hosts for the fun filled evening.

The concert included the second year of the IGS Battle of the Bands 2023. The judges were overwhelmed by the high standard of performance from all the bands and said it was very hard to choose a winner. Ultimately there can only be one winner and the judges were delighted to award first place to Shaded (Alice, Betsy, Edith, Lydia & Kit, all year 10) for their stunning performance of The Chain by Fleetwood Mac. Shaded will now go through to represent IGS at the Red Kite Battle of the Bands on Thursday 18 January at The Wardrobe, Leeds. This is a brand-new event that will see up to fifteen schools battle it out in front of a team of judges headed up by Sam Nicholls (Founder & director of Music: Leeds). This will be a fantastic opportunity for Shaded to showcase their talents alongside leading musicians from other local schools within the Red Kite Alliance. We will keep you updated with their progress and hope you will join me in wishing them the best of luck! Thank you to everyone that made the IGS Music Showcase such a resounding success. It was a marvellous night packed full of musical talent and we hope to do it again next year!

Opera North – an exciting performance opportunity for students aged 8-14
See the attached 'audition call out' pdf for further information.

Opera North is looking for young people age 8-14 to take part in the following productions;

A Midsummer Nights Dream (Director Martin Duncan, Conductor Garry Walker)

Music learning sessions will be scheduled in advance of the main rehearsal period.

Rehearsals from 27 August 2024. **Performances** in Leeds and on tour from 12 October until 20 November 2024.

We will be looking for young people with strong unchanged voices to sing and perform the roles of four solo fairies, as well as looking for children to sing and perform in the chorus of fairies. We need strong singers who are happy to sing in parts with excellent acting skills. There is an element of movement required.

Please email Rachel.Bradley@operanorth.co.uk directly for a registration form. The application deadline is Wednesday 13th December.

IGS Girls' Football

U13 Bradford City AFC Girls' Tournament

IGS 1 V 0 Dixon City

IGS 1 V Beckfoot 0

IGS 3 V Dixons City 0

IGS 2 V Beckfoot 0

Semi Final: IGS 2 V Tong Leadership Academy 0

Final: IGS 1- Buttershaw 4

Girls' U15 football

West Yorkshire County Cup finals -

runners up:

IGS 4 – 0 Ryburn

IGS 1 – 0 Roundhay

IGS 1 – 2 Rastrick



Year 10 Football

The National 'B team' cup: IGS have progressed to round 3 of the national cup after beating St Aidan's, Harrogate 1-0. It was a very tight game with the opposition piling on the pressure in the second half, but Benji Newton made countless fantastic saves to maintain Ilkley's clean sheet and help guide them to the next round. We welcome a team from the North East region in the next round in the last 32!

West Yorkshire Cup Quarter Final: Sadly, the Year 10 cup run in the WY cup has come to an end after suffering a 5-2 loss to Ryburn Academy. It was a fierce competition against a very physical side. Despite Ilkley taking an early lead, Ryburn capitalised on break away chances. We wish them the very best of luck in the semi-finals vs Cardinal Heenan.

National Cup: IGS Vs St Matthews RC, Moston, Manchester 24/11/23: The Y10 team have booked a place in round 5 (last 64 teams of 674!) in the ESFA national cup after beating St Matthews 8-7 on sudden death penalties. The team showed great resilience to come back from being 2-0 down at half time, scoring four fantastic second half goals. The game was tied 4-4 at full time, and after 10 minutes of extra time... requiring penalties to decide the tie! IGS took the first penalty and scored all eight, St Matthews followed suit until the 8th sudden death penalty which was saved by a strong leap by George Hannam! The cup run continues! We play Spen Valley high school in the next round.

Year 11 Football

Regrettably, the Year 11 football team couldn't retain the Leeds Cup title this year. Despite facing a 2-0 deficit against Horsforth School, they showcased remarkable resilience, clawing their way back to a 2-2 draw. The match culminated in a penalty shootout where, despite their best efforts, they narrowly succumbed. Now, all focus shifts to the winning Champions of Leeds Cup in the near future. A commendable performance by all involved.



The Yorkshire School Chess Championship

The Yorkshire School Chess Championship took place on Friday 17th November. There were 32 teams from 14 schools entered and IGS submitted 2 x teams of four students. It was an impressive set up hosted by St Bede's and St Joseph's in Bradford, with 64 games of chess being played simultaneously. The matches were a maximum of 30 mins to play and there was time to play three rounds with Ilkley A team sitting in second place on current standings. Unfortunately, there was not enough time to complete all 6 rounds of chess so there will be another event in Feb/March where the tournament can be completed. The level of interest in the event was wonderful as was the calibre of the games being played. A big thanks to our representatives from IGS who did a magnificent job representing the school with plenty still to play for in the next event.

Ilkley A team

Callum Whitton

Alex Rawse

Josh Palaca

Matthew Rodriguez

Ilkley B team

Dan Yoshino Bunting

Isaac Smith

Thomas Mays

Jack Blundell



PRIDE



RESPECT



COURAGE



RESPONSIBILITY



KINDNESS



RESILIENCE

On Wednesday 15th November Year 13 student Jacob Dawson-Watts visited the Refugee Action (Bradford Group) with Mrs Tomblin (who has worked with Refugee Action for 7 years) as part of his Photography A level project. This was a sensitive and carefully planned visit as it involved securing the permissions from the charity and participants to take photographs of members of the community, many of whom have limited English, have experienced trauma, are living in complex circumstances and whose futures are uncertain. Jacob was introduced to families from, among others, Algeria, Iran, Nigeria, Sudan, Iraqi Kurdistan, Senegal and El Salvador. He took care to explain his project and photographed children of all ages and their parents – making sure that his photos protected his subjects from being directly identified by always focussing on aspects other than the face. It was particularly humbling for Jacob to meet a young man of 17, the same age as himself, who had been in the UK just 20 days, and is here by himself. Jacob took it all in his stride and treated everyone with the dignity and respect deserving of any photographic model. All participants from Wednesday have agreed to have their work form part of Jacob's A Level Photography portfolio and also an exhibition at school. Mrs Tomblin is also arranging a return visit with Jacob so the models can see the pictures. Thank you to Mrs Tomblin for facilitating this very special visit.



Moor Road Closure

In addition to the disruption on the A65 by Manor Bends and the planned industrial action causing disruption to rail services, we are also aware that the **Moor Road will be closed 6, 7, 8 December** between the Cow and Calf and Robin Hole Campsite on Stead Lane (before the Moor Lane junction). The sign indicates this road is shut between the hours of 9am and 5pm (see image) so whilst not affecting your morning journey to school it may affect your journey home on those dates.

Parking

Please could we ask that when parking around school at start and end of day that **drivers are considerate to other road users**, this is extremely **important on Wheatley Road**. Please try to avoid parking opposite the school bus lay-bys as this can cause congestion on surrounding roads, resulting in larger vehicles not being able to get through. Thank you for your support with this.

Useful Links & Email Addresses

Years 7-11 notifications of absence: attendance@igs.mlt.co.uk or, **extension 2** if phoning school on the morning of an unforeseen absence

P-16 notifications of absence: p16attendance@igs.mlt.co.uk

Lettings and venue hire: venuehire@igs.mlt.co.uk

General enquiries: admin@igs.mlt.co.uk

Parents' evenings: parentsevenings@igs.mlt.co.uk

PTA: PTA@igs.mlt.co.uk

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](#) and 'IGS Vacancies' [HERE](#)



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