



FORTNIGHTLY HIGHLIGHTS

Dear Parent, Carers,

I hope you all enjoyed a lovely break over the festive holiday period and a very happy new year to you all.

It has been a very busy start to the term with welcome back reset assemblies for all year groups, mock results day and parents' evening for Year 11, some external BTEC exams, as well as Presentation Evening for last year's year 13 students. This evening of celebration is always a highlight in the IGS Calendar and is an excellent showcase for the range of talent at IGS. Students were awarded their A-Level and BTEC certificates, alongside a wide range of subject, progress and attainment prizes, as well as special awards which recognised wider achievements beyond academic success. A more detailed article on the event is featured later in the parent/carer bulletin, and a full list of the prize winners will be available on the school website.

Next week sees the start of the mock examination period for our students in the current year 13, as well as well as functional skills assessments for some students in key stage 4. We wish all students the best of luck!

We also wish good luck to our year 10 band, Shaded, who are competing against 11 other Red Kite schools in the inaugural Battle of the Bands at The Wardrobe in Leeds next Thursday.

Other key events this half-term include:

- Monday 29th January: Taster Day for Post-16 (current year 11)
- Tuesday 30th January: Year 9 Parents' Evening (remote)
- Monday 5th – Thursday 8th February: School Production

Best wishes,

Carly Purnell

Headteacher

IMPORTANT NOTICES:

Last term, we said goodbye to Mr James Kerry who retired from teaching after 21 years of service at Ilkley Grammar School. This is an end of an era for the technology team and we thank Mr Kerry for imparting his knowledge, his creative solutions to design problems and inspiring students and staff with his love of design. We wish him all the best as he focuses on a new career in tennis coaching.

This term, we warmly welcome Mrs Rebecca Stevenson as teacher of technology, Mrs Jessica Friend and Ms Kate Harburn as teachers of MFL to cover Ms Kelly's maternity leave, Mrs Charlotte McCutcheon as teacher of history and geography covering Mrs Nuttall's maternity leave and Mr Jools Hooper as teacher of computing.

Parking

Please be advised, that from Monday 15th January work will commence at the top of the school site near the entrance gates on an improved School Resourced Provision building. This is a great investment for the school and its students. This building work has been planned to cause minimal/no disruption to students learning, however, will have impact on certain logistics at the entrance to the school site. From Monday, this gate will be a vehicle only entrance, and we will ask students not to enter through this gate on foot. Our one-way system will continue to be in operation for vehicle access, however, we would ask parents to avoid using this wherever possible. Thank you for your continued support during this time.

Headteacher's Awards

Congratulations to the following students who were awarded the Headteacher Award in the last week before Christmas:

Finn Reeves 7JOW; Eli Smith 8GMS; Arthur Joli 9EAL; Isabelle Atkinson 10AMK; Caleb Wigglesworth 11KL; Isobel Tate Smith 12RTS

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.



Congratulations and well done to **Ciara Joel 13SVB**, who has just completed her **Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award** with Burley Parish Council. This is a fantastic achievement!



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Sports' Updates

Year 8 B Team Football Tournament

IGS v OPHGS

Congratulations to all the boys who took part in the friendly competition. There were some fantastic individual and team performances.

- IGS won 2 games, drew 1 game, and lost 1 game fishing overall winners.

Y10 Football

Leeds City Cup last 16

IGS 2 - 1 Mount St Mary's

The 2 goals were scored by Alex Pollard and Noah Taylor-Smith.

Congratulations to the Y10 Football team who now progress into the quarter final!

Further sports' updates from the beginning of this term will be included in the next bulletin

P-16 Presentation Evening



Credit for photos by Niamh O'Hearne (IGS Student)

[Ilkley Gazette Article](#)

Ilkley Grammar School celebrates the exceptional Class of 2023 with Presentation Evening at the King's Hall

It was with great pride that Ilkley Grammar School welcomed back the truly exceptional Year 13 Class of 2023 for an evening at the King's Hall in Ilkley to celebrate their outstanding A level, BTEC and wider successes.

With the promise that grading would 'return to normal' after years of pandemic disruption there was, once again this year, a degree of uncertainty as to whether their hard work would pay off, but it did, and Year 13 Presentation Evening was a final, formal opportunity to celebrate the achievements of this year group who were sitting their first full set of national exams since their Primary School SATs in 2016 due to the cancellation of GCSE exams in 2021.

The excited buzz of results day last summer was repeated at the King's Hall last Thursday evening as IGS staff, students and their families gathered one last time, in person, to reflect on what had been achieved. The evening started on a high with a fantastic performance from the winner of the IGS Battle of the Bands 'Shaded' and Headteacher, Carly Purnell, continued the evening by welcoming back former students (many having just finished their first term at university) and their parents/carers.

She went on to celebrate the fact that as a year group they had achieved a fantastic set of A-Level and BTEC results, with almost one-third of all grades at the highest level of A/A*, 63% at grades A*-B, 83% at grades A*-C and a pass rate of over 99% with IGS ranking, once again, as one of the highest performing comprehensive 6th Forms in the north of England.

Mrs Purnell spoke of her pride at being their Headteacher and celebrated the resilience and courage they had shown over their years in Post-16. Students proudly collected their A-level and BTEC certificates to the warm applause and congratulations of friends, family, IGS staff and special guests including the Guest of Honour, Professor Becky Malby and Ilkley Town Mayor, Karl Milner.

There were many superb individual achievements which were recognised in 33 subject awards, as well as in prizes for outstanding progress and attainment across the curriculum.

In total 9 students achieved three or more grades at A*/Dist* and a further 17 students achieved straight As or above with a record 10 students taking up places at Oxbridge last term, as well as many other unique individual successes.

With these results students had progressed to over 50 different universities onto courses ranging from Engineering, Urban Design and International Relations to Computer Game Technology, Japanese, Journalism, Neuroscience and everything else in between! Other destinations included Degree Level Apprenticeships with companies such as Alvarez & Marsal, PwC, Ernst & Young, Rolls Royce, Deloitte and one student securing a contract with the Pro-cycling team DSM.

In his speech Mr Sykes, Director of Year 13, welcomed back this very special year group and spoke of what a privilege it had been to work with them. He compared the success of the year group to the beauty of a coral reef which is the outcome of a symbiotic relationship. Just as polyps and algae combine together to form incredible coral reefs, so staff, school and parents work together to achieve success. He went on to thank all the members of the post-16 team and teachers at the school.

The school also welcomed Professor Becky Malby as the guest of honour who is visiting Professor in Health Systems Innovation at the Universities of York, Huddersfield, and London South Bank. In her speech she drew upon her experience of working with local entrepreneurs and activists in South Africa to support the development of the Health Service in the country. She encouraged the audience to 'start the change with you', and for us to be 'curious and rigorous with our opinions', speaking powerfully about the fact that we are defined by:

*What we choose to step by and what we choose to step into
What we choose to avoid and what we choose to embrace
What we choose to wash past us and what we choose to understand*



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Professor Malby framed her speech with a quote from a poem 'The Hill we Climb' which the American poet Amanda Gorman read at President Biden's inauguration, and which starts with a question - "When day comes, we ask ourselves where we can find light in this never-ending shade?" The poem ends with an answer...

"When day comes, we step out of the shade, aflame and unafraid.
The new dawn blooms as we free it.
For there is always light,
if only we're brave enough to see it.
If only we're brave enough to be it."

Special awards recognising wider achievements beyond academic success and celebrating each of the school values of Responsibility, Respect, Kindness, Resilience, Courage, and Pride were also awarded.

With additional excellent musical performances from current year 13 students Charlotte Dear (vocals) and Callum Whitton (piano) and a finale from Josh Palaca with a superb rendition of Nina Simone's 'Feeling Good', there was a wide and diverse range of talent on display.

Jamie Gutch, Deputy Headteacher, who compered the evening said "Post-16 represents the culmination of the school experience and it was so exciting to be able to welcome back students and parents/carers to celebrate their achievements. I would like to publicly thank all those who taught this cohort as they made their way up the school and while in the 6th Form. Special thanks must also go to Mr Fox (Assistant Headteacher for Post-16), Mrs Pickard (who led the year group through year 12), Mrs Walsh (Senior Pastoral Manager), Mrs Greenwood (Student Support Manager), Mrs McCutcheon and Mrs Herring (Student Achievement Managers), the dedicated team of form tutors and all those who tirelessly provided both academic and pastoral support to these students over their time in Post-16. Success is always a team effort."

Mr Gutch continued "This event is one of the highlights of our annual calendar and we were delighted that so many of our former students and parents/carers were able to celebrate with us. Well done the class of 2023. Your school and your families are very proud of you, and we wish you all the very best for the future!"

[Ilkley Gazette Article](#)

In December, Ilkley Grammar School held its first ever Careers Fair - Future Fest

The fair, which took place during the school day, was an opportunity for every student from Year 7 to 13 to learn from employers about work, employment and the skills valued in the workplace. It was great to see some IGS alumni being successful in their chosen careers and talking to the current student body about the pathways they had taken. Students had the opportunity to increase their knowledge of different careers and sectors by listening to representatives from local and national businesses who were there to answer questions and to help students make informed decisions about their next steps. Among the huge range of things on offer, students had the opportunity to test changing into a firefighter's uniform in the quickest time, give CPR, and hold a riot shield, along with many more interactions. It would not have been such a success event without the amazing businesses that volunteered to give up their time to support the day. We look forward to this becoming an annual event and forming a key part of our careers provision.



Christmas Hampers 2023

On the first day of the Christmas holidays, IGS was very pleased to host a team, co-ordinated by Becky Malby of the Ilkley **Great Get Together**, who packed over 180 Christmas hampers for Ilkley families. Each hamper included food donated from a variety of sources including amazing Christmas cakes, crackers and mince pies provided by hundreds of different individuals and organisations from across Ilkley including the Ilkley Soroptomists, Olicana Bridge Club, the Loafer Bakery, the Ilkley Wharfedale Rotary Youth Committee, Ilkley Rugby Club, St John's Church Ben Rhydding, the Cow and Calf Dairy, Sacred Heart School, packing boxes from Booths and Tesco, and bread provided by Hovis. Funding from Bradford Town Council and Ilkley Town Council meant that the team was able to provide a box of food as well as festive items to provide a boost to families over the Christmas period. **A huge thank you to all those that donated, to Joy Heyworth who oversaw the logistics on behalf of IGS, and to Becky Malby and her team for making it all happen once again.**



Ilkley Good Neighbours

One hundred local residents enjoyed a surprise Christmas treat when volunteers from Ilkley Good Neighbours, accompanied by students from Ilkley Grammar School, delivered presents to their homes. Organised annually by the charity, the ever-popular Christmas Parcel Project – now in its 30th year – always brings a touch of seasonal good cheer to a number of the area's older and less physically able residents. Around 30 6th form students from IGS were involved this year, supported by drivers from The Rotary Club of Ilkley Wharfedale along with volunteers from Ilkley Good Neighbours. The packing of the parcels was carried out in the town's Masonic Hall, courtesy of the Olicana Lodge.



"We had many favourable comments from the elderly recipients who were absolutely delighted with their gifts," said Peter Mate of The Rotary Club. "They really enjoyed meeting the IGS students, some of whom talked about their own grannies and older relatives. The students were also so refreshing to work with, and to hear all about their A-Level and career plans." Another member of The Rotary Club, Janet Sleighthome said: "We were accompanied on our deliveries by two delightful students from IGS who were wonderful ambassadors for the school. All the ladies we visited were appreciative of the gifts and for the chance to chat with the students and ourselves."

As well as thanking the charity's trustees and volunteers, who had an early morning start to pack the parcels, Ed Duguid (Chair of Ilkley Good Neighbours) added: "I would like to say how grateful we are to IGS for once again helping us deliver the parcels and to make it a special day for our clients. It really was a truly community effort by all." **For the full article in the Ilkley Gazette click [here](#)**

RED KITE
BATTLE OF THE BANDS 2024
THURSDAY 18 JANUARY
7PM
TICKETS AVAILABLE VIA QR CODE
£6 EACH
(+BOOKING FEE)
THE WARDROBE
6 ST PETER'S SQUARE, LEEDS LS9 8AH

IGS has organised and is hosting our first ever Red Kite Alliance **Battle of The Bands at The Wardrobe, Leeds, 7pm on Thursday 18th January!**

Red Kite Battle of the Bands

The IGS Battle of the Bands winners, **Shaded** (Edith Eccles, Betsy Burt, Kit Evans, Alice Walsh & Lydia Green) are representing IGS at the Red Kite Battle of the Bands next Thursday 18 January at 7pm at the Wardrobe, 6 St Peter's Square, Leeds, LS9 8AH. They will be competing against 11 other schools from the Red Kite Alliance to be crowned winners. The judges are Simon Rix (Kaiser Chiefs, Holy Moly Management), Sally Bryant (A&R / Artist Manager, Dance To The Radio / Futuresound) and Sam Nicholls (whiskas – Music: Leeds / Launchpad). It promises to be a fantastic evening and you are warmly invited to **come and support Shaded!**

Tickets are £6 each (+ booking fee) and are available from:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/red-kite-battle-of-the-bands-2024-tickets-772063772527>



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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