



#### I March 2024 PARENT/CARER BULLETIN

#### FORTNIGHTLY HIGHLIGHTS

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been a colourful and uplifting return to school following the half-term break, despite the very grey and wet February weather.

Interviews for Post-16 have taken place over three consecutive days and evenings, following over 400 applications to study at IGS. It has been a real pleasure to speak to so many of our year 11 students, as well as a record number of external applicants from other schools and talk to them about their potential subject choices and their future careers and next steps.

Today, we also received confirmation of the year 6 students who have secured a place at Ilkley Grammar School for September 2024. 320 students will join us as our new year group of "red ties", following 870 applications. We look forward to starting the transition process and welcoming the students and their families to IGS.

Last night, after a long three week wait, we also enjoyed the final performance of Grease. It was definitely worth the wait. I have been fortunate enough to see the show twice, but I would happily have gone again ... and again! The students were incredible, and, alongside their unquestionable talent, what stood out was their infectious level of enthusiasm and energy. They clearly enjoyed performing the show as much as the audience loved watching it. A huge well done goes to the T: Birds and Pink Ladies, supporting actors and vocalists, the fantastic ensemble, the dancers, the live orchestra, as well as an amazing group of Backstagers, who were responsible for the smooth set changes, lighting, sound and effects, and our costume and set designers. They have all worked incredibly hard and should be really proud of what they have achieved.

I would also like to take the opportunity to thank the staff who have made it happen. Whilst many colleagues have played a part, a special thanks go to: Lara Ramrattan and Rebecca Clift who directed and produced the show; Nick Peters (Musical Director); Vic Chapman and Jess Womack (Vocal Director/Assistant Director); Catherine Cox (Choreographer) and Adam Grayson (Technical Director). Once again, they have gone above and beyond, investing hours of their own time to support rehearsals and build a platform which has enabled our students to shine on stage and behind the scenes. The performances have shown that all those hours, the sacrifices, and the struggles have been worth it.

What the production has once again shown is that in a time of stretched budgets and a challenging educational landscape, it is important that we continue to promote and support the creative arts. A show like this provides wonderful experiences and also reinforces important messages: hard work and commitment do pay off; a team who works together is stronger than the sum of its parts; and, as the opening lyrics state, with self-belief they "can be who they are."

Have a lovely weekend,

Carly Purnell Headteacher

#### Headteacher's Awards

Congratulations to the following students who were awarded the Headteacher Award over the last fortnight: Astrid Morey 7HED/IGD; Lola Hall 8JNB; Cyrus Xavier 9CS; Logan Tordoff 10JPM; Daniel Tomblin 11MTD; Alex Wood 13HDR; Alvin Burt 7RLB; Alice Murphy 8CCM; Rose Hunter 9HGW; Sam Gazeley 11MTD; Aimee Myers 12LG/MEH

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.



#### On behalf of Ms. Claughton: Deputy Headteacher

Parents of Year 8 and Year 9. You are warmly invited to attend Options Evening: 4-7pm, Wednesday 6th March. There will be presentations for Parents/Carers in B Hall at various points during the evening, should you wish to attend:

- **Year 8 Presentations at:** 3.45, 4.45, 5.45pm
- **Year 9 Presentations at:** 4.15, 5.15, 6.15pm

The evening also runs as a marketplace, giving you and your child the chance to visit curriculum areas and ask any questions ahead of the Options Deadlines which are as follows:

- **Year 8:** Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024
- Year 9: Wednesday 13th March 2024

Students have been shown how to use their electronic Options Form and how to select their choices. There is no official 'submit' button; students are simply required to 'save' their choices on Sims Options Online. Should you have any further questions, please email the Options Inboxes:

- Year8Options@ilkleygs.co.uk
- Year9Options@ilkleygs.co.uk

#### **IGS Needs You!**

If you have some free time and would like to support our students in their academic journey, and you are welcoming, friendly, and keen to work within our community, then we have the perfect role for you! We are looking to recruit invigilators for both the GCSE and A Level Summer Examinations. If you are interested or would like some more information, please contact Mrs Stewart (Exams Officer) <u>ianet.stewart@igs.mlt.co.uk</u>



## **Sports Updates**



On Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February, Year 12 student Aimee Myers was involved in a historic win for her team the Leeds Modernians, against Leeds United, in the County Cup semi-final. Aimee plays for the Leeds Modernians under 18s first team and is on a scholarship with Bradford City. Leeds United, who are a semi-professional team, are three leagues above the Modernians – on paper at least! Aimee played the full 90 minutes on the left wing. They were losing 1-0 at half time and then in the second half, Aimee scored the leading goal to make it 2-1. She then assisted the winning goal with the final score standing at 3-1. Taking place in front of a crowd of over 500, this win means that the Leeds Modernians are through to the final of the County Cup and their 'massive cup shock' made it into the newspapers and onto the radio. The scouts will be out at the final and we are excited to see what Aimee achieves next. Well done Aimee – we are so proud of you!

https://www.leedsunited.com/news/womens/32959/updates-leeds-modernians-vs-leeds-united-women

#### Rugby

- IGS years 7 & 8 hosted Ripon Grammar school at IRUFC in a friendly
- IGS year 7s beat RGS by 1 try and our year 8s lost by 6 tries
- Figure 11 played Horsforth in the Yorkshire Plate at Horsforth school and lost 34-10

# Netball

Congratulations to our Year 10 Netball team who came out 37-32 winners against Wolfreton School from Hull in the quarter final of the U15 Sisters in the Sport National Bowl Competition. The whole team played brilliantly. Wolfreton voted Isla Slade as player of the match. Well done to Isla and the team!















Congratulations to the U15 boys Hockey team who reached the final of the Yorkshire Hockey Tournament before narrowly losing 1-0 to St Peters. It was a fantastic achievement, competing with and matching the best teams in Yorkshire. To reach the final, the team had to overcome Ashville in the semi-final on penalty flicks after a 4-4 draw in full time.

Well done to all the boys involved!

Alex Tate Smith; Jack Winterbottom; Joe Sugden; Leo Snedden; Noah Taylor Smith; Humprey Morton; Freddie Graves; Jamie Papworth; Finley Bartle; Will Campbell; Tom Sugden; Ben Winterbottom

#### Results of group stages

- IGS v Silcoates 4-0 win
- IGS v Harrogate Grammar 4-0 Win
- IGS v St Peters 0-3 Loss

#### Semi Final

- IGS v Ashville 4-4 Win 3-1 penalty flicks
  Final
- IGS v St Peters 0- I

Our Year 7 football team played twice On Tuesday @ Lawnswood School. We beat <u>@lawnswoodschool</u> 2-0 with Finlay Warden 7ARJ scoring both goals. Our Second game against <u>@PrinceHenrysGS</u> ended 0-0 with Ibraheem Aziz 7ARJ making a fantastic save down to his right to keep the scores tied.





# Daniel Tomblin (11MTH) selected to represent

### Team GB in Underwater Hockey

Daniel Tomblin, Year 11, has recently been selected to represent Great Britain in the Underwater Hockey Age World Championships in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in July this year. He will form part of the 12 strong team making up the GB U19M team. Also going to Malaysia will be the GB U19W, GB U24M and GB U24W. Daniel has been playing Underwater Hockey since he was 10 years old and been training with the potential GB squad for 3 years. To be selected to represent the country is an amazing feat of achievement and pays testament to the hours of training he has put in.

Well done, Daniel!













## GREASE IS THE WORD!



## Grease Lightning!

IGS Production of Grease is the slickest ever!

Once upon a time we were all Danny or Sandy – stumbling through life, putting our foot in it, getting things wrong, and throughout this outstanding run of performances of Grease, as familiar as the story is, the hearts of the audience were always with the characters, hoping for a happy ending – and we got one!

In fact, the story of this production, which marked another shift in gear for the IGS Creative Arts Department, started before the opening night with the cast doing 7 back-to-back performances of *Born to Hand Jive* in assemblies before Christmas to promote the













show. Back then there was the feeling that the creative arts was entering the mainstream and reaching every student in school – both entertaining and inspiring.

With two casts totalling 77 students from across years 7-13, 14 musicians playing live, around 54 additional students helping backstage, front of house and with sound, props, set design and lighting and supported by 25 members of staff this was a huge undertaking by any standards and what was incredible was that across all the performances, including the finale on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> February (taking place three weeks later than planned due to snow), everything came together into one, joyful event.

With hugely characterful acting, powerful singing performances, live music, hilarious slapstick, energetic and fantastically choreographed dancing, faultless sound and lighting and American accents straight out of 1950s Chicago this production just had everything. There was such an incredible sense of unity that it is almost impossible to pick out individual performances from across the two casts but perhaps special mention should go to those year 13 students performing for the last time – Grace Chadwick, Millie Trevett, Leah Turner, Alex Ashman-Hogan and Charlotte Dear who spoke so eloquently at the end about their experience of the performing arts during their time at IGS.

To draw inspiration from the title track...

There ain't no danger we can go too far

We start believing now that we can be who we are

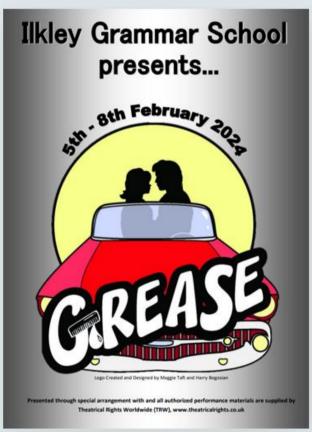
Grease is the word!

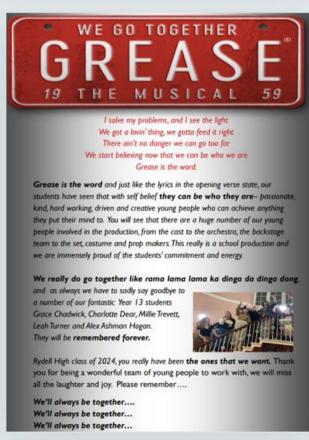
Sometimes it really does feel as if the sky is the limit.

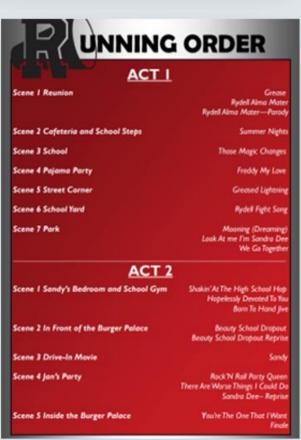


Danny Zuko	Justin Derla		Ber	Benjamin Kirk	
Sandy Dumbrowski	Grace Chadwick		Alice Walsh		
Kenickie	Matthew Disney		John Morgan		
Betty Rizzo	Millie Trevett		Daisy Button		
Sonny Latierri	James Hepworth		William McCutcheon		
Frenchy	Mahalia Beevers				
Roger	Jeff Cook		James Hepworth		
Jan	Bella Clarke		Millie Shepherd		
Doody	Leah Turner		Dougle Cook		
Marty	Emma Chapman		Isabelle Atkinson		
Patty Simcox	Suki Hutchinson				
Miss Lynch	Lizzie Meredith B		essie Dye		
Eugene Florczyk	Tom Moffat				
Vince Fontaine	Alex Ashman Hogan T		oby Lucas		
Johnny Casino	Samuel Woodward				
Cha Cha Digregorio	Tilda Davies Downes Ame		lia Merifield		
Teen Angel	Charlotte Dear				
Pink Ladies	Niamh Brewis		Iona Burgess		
	Katie Corrigan		Evelyn Kennedy		
	Holly Machin		Libby Clapham		
	Abigail Hargreaves		Grace Darlington		
T Birds	Ash Mackintosh- Dixon		Adam Disney		
	Frederick McCuto	ederick McCutcheon A		ex Harper	
Dancers	Tilda Davies Downes	Amelia Merifield		Holly Machin	
	Heidi Atack	Charlotte Graham		Katie Griffin	
	Milly Hall	Minnie Booker		Ella Snow	
	Elsa Isherwood	Emilia Marszewska		Katie Sheldon	
	Olivia Roberts	Isla Slade			
Teen Angels	Gracie Cusker	Anya Smith		Sophie Barrick	
	Ida Caseley	Saskia White		Tess Wilson	
Ensemble	Rachel Holroyd	Oliver Craggs		Scarlett Gonzalez	
	Charlotte Welding	Leah Dawson		Honor Jeffries	
	Julietta Spotto	Eleanor Robinson		Holly Gair	
	Lizzie Whittington	Lola Nisbet		Ruby Johnson	

















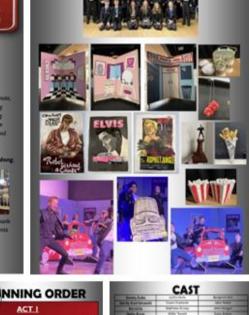


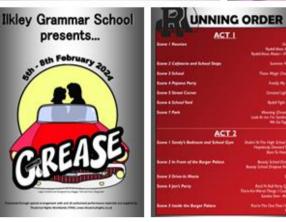














SAVE THE DATE! The Spring Showcase Music Concert will now take place on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April at 6.30pm in B Hall.

Year 10 and 12 Music Students will be performing, and a consent/information letter will be sent to parents/carers of students directly involved. If you require any more information, please contact victoria.chapman@mlt.igs.co.uk

#### Post 16 Musicians in Opera North Youth Performance

Congratulations to Holly Fox (Year 13) and Emma Chapman (Year 12) for their outstanding performances at the Leeds Grand Theatre on Monday 19th February!



The production was The Runaway Royal, an opera based on Emmanuel Chabrier's The Reluctant King. Holly plays first clarinet in the Opera North Youth Orchestra and Emma sings first soprano in the Opera North Youth Chorus. The performance was of a professional standard and, whilst the girls auditioned back in 2023 to be part of the company, this is the first time they have joined forces as part of the two youth groups to perform together on stage. Well done girls this is a fantastic opportunity and you did yourselves, your families and your school proud!





For **Ilkley Grammar School's music students** interested in an **Orchestra Workshop**, on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March (organised by **Ilkley** 

New Horizons Orchestra) click here for details.















Over February half term, eighty-nine of our year 9 students, accompanied with ten members of IGS staff headed to the slopes in Italy. The trip departed on the Friday afternoon and students eventually arrived in the resort on Saturday, where they tried on their ski boots and helmets before a hearty meal and an early night!

On Sunday morning, after an early breakfast, we excitedly headed up the mountain to meet the ski instructors and begin our first day of lessons. The ski groups showed great progress throughout the six days of skiing and were quickly exploring the full resort. The beginner groups grew in confidence on the blue slopes, and the advanced groups were soon tackling the more challenging red and black runs, developing their skills and practising their jumps!

The Après Ski programme included activities such as swimming, an evening meal at a local pizzeria and the Alpine Coaster- a fast rollercoaster ride through a section of the resort. In between lessons and Après Ski, students enjoyed exploring the local town; the crepe shop was particularly busy and full of our students on pancake day!

It was a fantastic trip and wonderful to see, not only students' success on the slopes, but their resilience in learning, their courage to tackle challenges especially in the tricky conditions, and their kindness towards one another.

Charlie D commented: "I learnt to keep going even if it gets hard. The instructors were welcoming and taught me a lot whilst having fun. I enjoyed being able to go down the slopes with groups and being able to get a strong bond with the instructors and people from my group."

"I really enjoyed the ski trip to Bardonnechia, especially the amazing views of the mountains. The trip was my first-time skiing and I really liked learning a new skill. It was one of the best trips I have been on so far and it seemed to end too soon" - Adam D

"I have really enjoyed the Italy ski trip 2024. I hadn't been skiing since I was 7 and the ski school was amazing as they put me in a group for just my ability but always was a little bit challenging. The journey there and back was very smooth, and the ferry was a really fun experience. The hotel was amazing and getting to be with my friends for an entire week was so good and I made many new friends. Thank you so much for the best time!" - Isla B
"Skiing was one of the best experiences of my life, I had so much fun!" – Hannah M



## Madrid Exchange 2024 by Jeff Cook 11KL and Toby Lucas 11KL











On Thursday 8th February, 25 students and 3 members of staff awoke for the quite frankly ridiculous departure for London at 4AM, despite the flight taking off at around half past one in the afternoon! Nevertheless, the anticipation was at an all-time high. Some managed a few winks of sleep, while others laughed and chit-chatted the rest of the night away in their sheer eagerness to get on that plane and have one of the most awe-inspiring and eye-opening weeks of their lives. Except we didn't. Just upon arrival at security checks at Heathrow, we received the devastating news that our flight had been... cancelled! We couldn't believe it. Would we have to just miserably travel back home? Were there any alternative flights during the day? Could we even fly tomorrow? It was a nerve-racking wait, but thanks to the fantastic work of our beloved Mr Kehoe, Ms Bono and Marisol, we were in fact able to stay in a Holiday Inn Express overnight until we had to pull ourselves round for another 4AM get-up in order to board our new flight at around half-past seven.

After a relaxing flight, we breezed through Madrid airport and made our way to Pozuelo. It was a breathtakingly beautiful town, and we felt as if we were wandering into paradise. The coach took us to the school with which we were doing the exchange, and we met with our partners for the first time during their lunch break. Furthermore, we had a brief tour of their grand school before finally heading off to our partners' homes for the weekend, so we could enhance our Spanish speaking and understanding of their culture. On the Monday, we were reunited with the other English exchange students for each of the day trips. Over the next few days, we visited Segovia with its beautiful aqueduct and castle, Madrid city centre, Las Ventas bull ring and the Bernabeu Stadium. On the last evening, we had a farewell meal together with all the IGS and Spanish students, which was great fun.

On the Thursday morning, we went into a class at the Spanish school and experienced one of the lessons. We were divided into small groups and sent off into the school to a classroom. We the bid farewell to our partners and Spanish friends and set off for the airport. We completed the final leg of the journey and returned to school at around 9pm. Overall, the Spanish Exchange was a phenomenal experience - getting the chance to practise and improve our Spanish and experience what it is like to live in such an amazing country.

Muchas Gracias to all the wonderful staff from both schools who made such an amazing trip possible.















You are warmly invited to come along to the PTA Quiz & Curry Night where the quizmaster will be our very own Arron Hefferin and there will be a band 'Sand Dollar' which will be playing from 7pm (featuring recent PTA chair Jane Wearing).

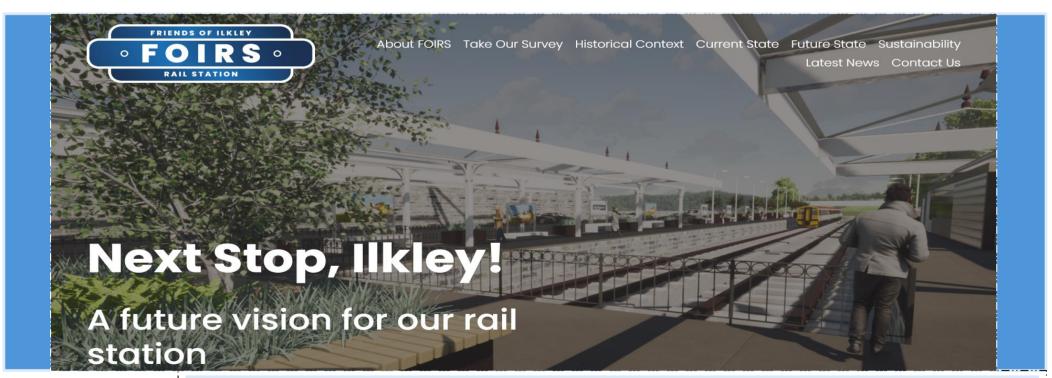
Click <u>PTA Events</u> to order tickets and curry (dessert included)!

#### 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 'Community' HERE 'IGS Vacancies' HERE and PTA Events





**FOIRS (Friends of Ilkley Rail Station)** are currently seeking the views of local rail users about the station, by means of a short on-line survey hosted by Ilkley Bid.

They are asking IGS students to complete this survey either by the link to our website at <a href="https://www.foirs.co.uk/">https://www.foirs.co.uk/</a> or by means of the QR code.

Please note that your responses will be read by people outside Ilkley Grammar School.











