



Dear Parent, Carers,

It has been an exciting week of transitions at Ilkley Grammar School. Yesterday, we welcomed current year 6 students – next year’s Year 7 – for their induction day when they met their new year group in its entirety for the first time. Our new cohort of “Red Ties” really impressed staff and students with their manners, enthusiasm and positivity, as well as already demonstrating some of our values including kindness, resilience and courage. They certainly made a great first impression and we are looking forward to them starting with us officially on Tuesday 3rd September.

Today, we have also welcomed new teaching colleagues as part of their induction process as they prepare to join Ilkley Grammar School in September. Despite a national recruitment and retention crisis in teaching, we are delighted that we have been able to make strong appointments and that all vacancies have been filled with subject specialists as part of a competitive process. We really look forward to our new colleagues starting and being able to draw on their range of experiences and expertise. We are confident they will be an asset to the school and our students.

Next week marks our highly anticipated annual Challenge and Celebration week, a highlight on the school calendar. This week offers students the chance to expand their horizons, engage in new experiences, enhance their skills, build their character and develop friendships in different settings and environments. With a mix of in-school activities and events, local day trips and residential across the UK and in Germany, Italy, Poland and Switzerland, we provide a wide array of opportunities for students to enjoy and create lasting memories. Meanwhile, year 10 students and some post-16 students will participate in work experience, further developing their skills, confidence, and resilience in unfamiliar environments as they step out of their comfort zones. We hope they will develop crucial employability skills and find the experience both enjoyable and valuable in understanding the professional world.



We are delighted to have been awarded the School Games Gold Award for the fourth consecutive year. This is a brilliant achievement, reflecting the wide range of extra-curricular sport available at IGS and the opportunities to play competitively at local, regional and national level. Thanks to all of the PE staff for the time they invest in practices, fixtures and competitions and everything they do for our students to inspire a love of sport, as well as other colleagues who also give up their time and volunteer to take teams.

A reminder that school closes for the summer holidays next Friday 19th July at 12.30pm, with school buses departing at 12.40pm. We will publish a final bulletin celebrating Challenge and Celebration activities at the end of next week, alongside some key reminders for the new year ahead.

Best wishes,

Carly Purnell

Headteacher’s Awards

Congratulations to the following students who have been awarded the Headteacher Award over the last fortnight: Harry Thompson 7BLS; Sid Clay 7HED/IGD; Imogen Hargreaves 8SP; Amelia Nicholls 8PDH; Sophie Mydlowski 9HGW; Dan Nicoll 10SRZ; Henry Ritz 10LIR; Lois Skelton 12REB

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.



Retraction:

Ilkley Grammar School would like to retract the tutor comments made by Mrs Friend in the Year 11 Yearbook which reference individual students by name, potentially in a negative light. Whilst the comments were made were the best of intentions, we recognise that they could be misinterpreted and would like to apologise for any upset which has inadvertently been caused. IGS seeks to uphold its Personal Best values in all interactions with students, staff and parents/carers and recognises the importance of issuing a correction where this is perceived to not be the case.

Ilkley Grammar School wish the class of 11JAK well in all their future endeavours.

On behalf of Ms. Martini: Assistant Headteacher – Edulink letter attached

Please find attached a letter containing **important information regarding the new features on our communication app, Edulink One**, as well as significant changes relating to the use of ClassCharts.

The Speakers Trust 'Speak Out Challenge'

On Wednesday 3rd July Isla Slade (Y10) participated in the final of the prestigious Speakers Trust 'Speak Out Challenge' at the Carriageworks theatre in Leeds along with 12 other finalists from schools across the region.

Miss Clift who attended the event said 'Isla’s delivery was perfect! She was engaging, calm, collected and very passionate!'

Participating students have to prepare a speech on a topic of their choice and deliver it to a packed audience and a panel of judges which this year also included Xanthe Gutch from IGS as she had been runner up in the competition last year.

Isla's chosen topic was 'Going out of your comfort zone' - and she certainly did that!

The Speakers Trust Team wrote 'We would like to congratulate Isla on her fantastic speech in the Yorkshire Speak Out Challenge Final 2024. She did so well and spoke with great clarity! Isla should be feeling immensely proud. Please pass our congratulations on to her from us all at Speakers Trust.'

Congratulations Isla! We are very proud of you too!

Mr Gutch: Deputy Headteacher



Sport Update



On Tuesday 2nd July, Mr Ewbank, Mrs Knowles and 8 IGS tennis players had a cracking day spectating day 2 on Court 2 at the 2024 Wimbledon championships! The group were treated to watching Francisco Comesana defeat Andrey Rublev (6) 3-1 in style to register his first win at Wimbledon! The students and staff thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Professional photos from the Lexus Ilkley Tennis Trophy: Saturday 15th- 22nd June at ILTSC



The Staff Vs Sports Council 2024 Charity Fundraiser – The staff team win the event!

The Sports Council iLeaders group at IGS took part in their annual charity fundraiser in the week commencing Monday 1st July. This year, they hosted a 'Staff Vs Student Sport Week'. The Sports Council team challenged the IGS staff teams in a series of lunchtime team sports, with a culminating evening of football and rounders at Ben Rhydding Sports Club on Thursday 4th July.

On Monday, we kicked things off on the courts with the staff taking a convincing 7-0 win in the netball match before rain stopped play. Mr Hefferin, Mr Ford, and Mrs Robson made a formidable attack. The Student Sports Council team were hungry for revenge and on Wednesday took the dodgeball title, winning 3-2. The reactions and agility of the staff team which included Mr Ewbank, Mr Sharp, Mr Burton, Mr Spencer, Miss Jackson, Mr Smith and Mr Johnstone were not up to scratch. The championship was level at 1-1 ahead of Thursday night's culminating double header. Despite the gusty winds, we enjoyed some fantastic rounders and football at Ben Rhydding Sports Club. The staff and students were toe-to-toe with each other throughout the two rounders innings, with some impressive batting and slick fielding from both teams. The staff were crowned the winners by 1 rounder (25-24).

Our last event was the 9 aside football match. Knowing what was at stake, both teams donned the IGS strips with pride. The game was fast paced, and everyone battled against the wind. The Sport Council accelerated to an early 2-0 lead, whilst the staff were still limbering up, but we went into half time tied at 3-3 at half time. Clearly the team talk from the staff managers, Annabelle Forster and Imogen Hibbitt in Y10 worked better than Mr Ewbank's pep talk for the students, as the flood gates opened and the staff won 7-3, taking the 3-1 win overall in the championship! The event was raising funds for two sources: 50% of proceeds raised will be directed towards Leeds Hospitals Charity - Rob Burrow's Centre for MND and 50% going towards a new cross country/athletics kit to continue to promote our phenomenal success at district, regional and national level. Final totals will be revealed in September!

A big **THANKYOU** goes to all staff, students, referees who participated and raised funds, to Heather Warwick and the IGS catering team for providing a delicious BBQ and a selection of snacks and to the parents and carers that came down to spectate in the final!



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Glanville Cup Boys National Tennis Finals in Nottingham on Tuesday 25th – Friday 28th June

The u18 boys tennis team attended the national Glanville Cup finals at Nottingham Tennis Centre, representing Yorkshire for the second year in a row. The team included Thomas Nailer, Daniel Nicoll, Jack Winterbottom, Ben Winterbottom and Thomas Sugden. They were one of only two state schools in the competition, coming toe-to-toe with some of the best budding schools' tennis players at the best fee-paying tennis academies in the United Kingdom. The tournament took place from Tuesday 25th June - Friday 28th June, with a game on each day.

IGS had to beat Kings Priory Tynemouth, St Aidan's and Bradford Grammar to come out as regional area champions to book a place.

On **day 1** we faced Culford, who were the 3rd seed team. A tough start, with IGS losing and moving into the first-round losers' side of the compass draw.

On **day 2**, we faced St Bede's seniors which was a long afternoon battle after a delay getting on court. Unfortunately, Ilkley were edged out in each game.

Day 3 saw us face Repton, a de-ja-vu game as we faced them on the same day last year. Thomas Nailer won his singles and Tom and Ben won doubles on a championship tie break. Sadly, it wasn't enough as we lost 4-2 overall.



On the last day, we faced Millfield B in the 15/16th place playoff. The format was a fast 4, but the games were very tight so were far from 'fast' games. Thomas Nailer won his singles 2-1 after a championship tie break but the game finished 4-1 after the second seed doubles. The boys have made so much progress and matured in the last 12 months. **We are incredibly proud of them breaking more IGS records, and for making the finals in back-to-back years.**

Rijeka Open Diving Competition 2024 Croatia 4th – 7th July

Ralph Airey 8FB trains for up to 20 hours a week with the **City of Leeds Diving Club**. On the 4th-7th July, Ralph competed in the **Rijeka Open Diving Competition 2024 in Croatia**. This is a European event where Ralph was required to perform to a very high standard just to gain entry.

IGS is very proud to inform you that Ralph won GOLD in the 3m diving competition on 4th July! In addition to winning this gold, we have been informed that Ralph's also won two further golds across the last weekend for 1 metre and platform!

Congratulations and well-done Ralph, these are amazing achievements!

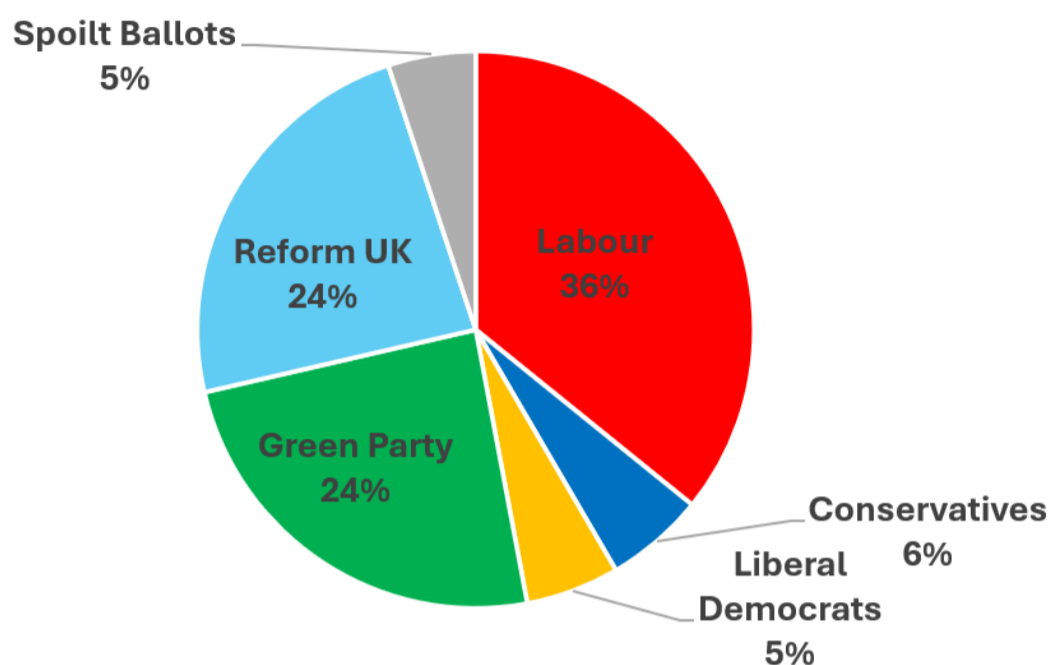


IGS Post-16 Mock Election

Lois Skelton in Y12 has analysed the results for us and has produced this update:

In the run up to the General Election, members of the newly appointed post-16 Senior Leadership team, the Active Citizenship strand of the IGS Ambassadors and a cohort of enthusiastic A-Level Politics students have been working on the IGS Mock election campaign. This included organising and running assemblies, making information boards, designing party manifestos, hosting a post-16 hustings and completing our own IGS Mock Election. Following the General Election, we can now announce the results of our student-led Mock Election in which almost 1,200 students got involved. Please find the results listed below:

IGS Mock Election Results 2024



Number of votes (out of 1,177) – Labour (442), Green Party (287), Reform UK (277), Conservatives (68), Liberal Democrats (64) and spoilt ballots (60).

The Student Experience – How we ran the IGS Mock Election 2024!

As soon as the General Election was announced, we got to work in setting up a team of those interested in helping out with the campaign. We initially worked on raising awareness of the upcoming General Election on a whole school level through planning and delivering assemblies to all year groups and curating a PBT session for the lower school to be able to compare and debate different party's manifestos using the materials provided by the A-Level Politics students in order to increase the awareness of our political scene within all year groups at school. In our assembly, we focused on delivering a presentation that would be suitable for all ages that briefly explains our electoral system, the political parties and the importance of voting in a digestible format. We then focused on delivering a student hustings, where 5 Politics students volunteered to stand as political representatives and raise awareness about different parties' policies in a post-16 hustings, where we addressed issues that are most concerning to young people such as Education and Healthcare. Finally, in the run up to July 4th, we worked on designing ballots, producing ballots and ballot boxes from scrap paper and recycled materials, and then gathering volunteers to collect votes from all year groups. We collected 1,177 ballots and spent time rounding up, grouping and counting ballots to produce our results. This experience provided great insight into the work the polling staff undertake during each general election, the importance of educating young people on politics and, in the end, we were all looking forward to finding out which party won.

Y12 chemistry students visit Bradford University



On Wednesday and Thursday last week, 2 groups of year 12 chemistry students spent a full day in the chemistry labs at Bradford University. Whilst there, they synthesised the painkiller benzocaine from its starting reagents. The students then determined the purity of their compound using melting point analysis and infra-red spectroscopy. This was a great opportunity for students to conduct an organic synthesis in university level lab facilities and to produce their own infra-red spectra, a technique which they have previously only studied theoretically. All students' conduct was exemplary, and they were a credit to their parents and carers, and to IGS.



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Creative Arts Festival



This year's Creative Arts Festival was another wonderful celebration of students' creative work across a range of different departments. This year, we had 236 individual performers over the two evenings, and a large student-led Backstage and Front of House teams in addition to the 178 students who had their work exhibited during the event.

The first night started with the Year 9 Drama group performing extracts from 'Sparkleshark', followed by a 'gig style' concert by our IGS bands who are currently preparing for the IGS Battle of the Bands heats in September and IGS Showcase at the Kings Hall on 6th November, where one band will be selected to go through to the Red Kite Battle of the Bands in January.

The second evening featured a concert, showcasing students' work in extra-curricular clubs such as Musical Theatre Group, Drama Groups, Choirs, Orchestra, Bands and many more. Our wonderful backstage group ran the sound, lighting and projections throughout the evening which truly brought the students' performances to life.

There was an exhibition of students Art, Photography and English (creative writing and poetry) work across two floors, accompanied by more live music, provided by Thomas Mays (Y9) and our fantastic Acapella Vocal Group 'Lyrical' (Y10). Refreshments were served by the PTA throughout both evenings, as they continue to support and reinvest in the arts at IGS.

A huge well done to all of the 400+ students involved, this was a fantastic event and we hope to celebrate even more of our students' creative work at our next Creative Arts Festival on Wednesday 2nd and Thursday 3rd July 2025!

School Uniforms Stockist Update: Joshua Adams

We are proud to be an Ilkley Grammar School uniform stockist alongside Wharfedale Uniforms.

Joshua Adams currently operates in the world of menswear, but now will be supplying Ilkley Grammar School uniform, alongside Wharfedale Uniforms and Ilkley Rugby Club Juniors kit.

All merchandise will be available to purchase from our Ilkley store, which will be open 7 days a week during the busy, back-to-school period in August, as well as online. We will have a click and collect point based at Ilkley Grammar School, making it easier for parents to access purchases. In addition, to help with the rising cost of living, we are introducing an 'Accounts' system, where parents can spread the cost of uniforms, making them much more affordable.

Mysuit@joshuaadams-ilkley.co.uk or call 01943 714000. Website: www.joshuaadams.co.uk

*Follow us on social media, to keep an eye on up-to-date news.



IGS Ukrainian colleague is fundraising to support Ukraine

My name is Katya and I have been working at IGS for the past two years as part of the Inclusive Learning Department. I am also Ukrainian, living with my hosts in Ilkley.

As you will know, the war in Ukraine is still ongoing and I want to do all I can to help my fellow Ukrainians who remain there. I have therefore decided to do a Coast-to-Coast Walk in August to raise money for the Ukrainian people.

I would be so grateful if you could support my fundraiser with any donation, no matter how small or big.

Here is the link to my JustGiving page: [Kateryna Kudriavtseva is fundraising for ActionAid \(justgiving.com\)](https://www.justgiving.com/Kateryna-Kudriavtseva)

Thank you so much for your support.

Kind regards,

Kateryna Kudriavtseva



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Any old SLRs?

Do you have an OLD 35mm SLR film camera in a drawer at home? Would you be prepared to donate it to the Photography Department at IGS?

The Photography department has a small darkroom and we teach all sixth form students traditional darkroom skills, however at present we have just 3 film cameras. Can you help us resource this?



Bakeware donation from Wilkinson 1888

The Food Department's received a generous donation of high-quality bakeware for use in food lessons. We are most grateful to Alice Wilkinson for her supply of the equipment. These will be used for years to come and enhance students' practical work. Even the Bake-Off tent would be envious! **Thank You from all the Food Team**

Burley-in-Wharfedale/Menston transport to school

The decision around ceasing school buses from Burley-in-Wharfedale/Menston was made by Bradford Metropolitan District Council. At the time this was placed into consultation, the school made objections to the proposal as per the council's process. Unfortunately, our issues raised were not impactful on changing the decision made.

Whilst we still have not received any official confirmation from the council, we understand that BMDC has confirmed that it will stop busing students from Menston and Burley in-Wharfedale from September, despite objections from parents. As a school, we have taken the time to look at alternatives that could be put in place for our students to get to and from school in this area, however, after carefully weighing up all of the options, we came to the conclusion that unfortunately, there are no financially viable or sustainable options.

We understand that students who would have been eligible for bus travel will be provided with a train pass to enable travel. These will be provided over the summer through the Metro Combined Authority in conjunction with Bradford Council. As this is not a school decision, the school travel service at Bradford Council should be able to answer any queries you may have: 01274 439450

Please be assured, that IGS is continuing to voice our concerns with the council, and we will endeavour to work with all parties over the coming weeks.

David Hulme

Director of Operations

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](#)



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