



Dear Parent/Carers,

Welcome back to a new academic year at Ilkley Grammar School and a very warm welcome to families who are new to IGS. It has been a calm and extremely positive start to the year and all of our students, including our new year 7 'Red Ties' and students joining key stages 3,4 and 5 from other providers, have settled really well. Behaviour and commitment to learning have been very impressive, with students modelling our values and demonstrating their Personal Best, and their response to the implementation of the ban on mobile phones during the school day has been superb.

Whilst there are lots of positives to celebrate, particular highlights over the last 8 days include:

- 26,000 Achievement Points have been issued to students across the school already
- We have welcomed record numbers into Year 12, with over 330 students joining Post-16. This includes over 100 students who have joined us from a range of state, selective and independent schools across the region. We now have a fantastic school community of over 2180 students and 260 staff, including 140 teachers.
- The whole school attendance is over 96% with year 12 attendance at 97.6% and year 7 attendance at 98.5%
- All students have visited the Student Leadership and Enrichment Fayre and were able to see the extensive range of 80 extra-curricular clubs and over 30 different leadership opportunities on offer. Last year, there were 749 student leadership positions filled across the school and we hope that this year we will have even more iLeaders in a range of positions.
- Year 7 have enjoyed their first IGS trip with a day of team building activities in their bands: I, G or S
- Multiple members of the community have commented on the exceptional behaviour of IGS students when travelling to and from school

I would like to take the opportunity to thank parent/carers for your support and for working in partnership to ensure such a positive start to the academic year - it does make a genuine difference. Thank you also for your patience as we migrate over to a new Management Information System (MIS) and switch from ClassCharts to EduLink. These large-scale system changes have largely been very successful, and staff are working very hard behind the scenes to address any teething problems.

Next week, we will be sending out a series of 1-minute guides to Behaviour, Safeguarding and Attendance at Ilkley Grammar School next week via the **EduLink app**. We ask that parents/carers of students in years 7-11 read and acknowledge the receipt of the 1-minute guides on the EduLink app by **Monday 30th September**; a post-16 version will be sent shortly.

Best wishes,

Carly Purnell

Headteacher's Awards

Congratulations to the following students who have been awarded the Headteacher Award over the last fortnight: Xander Carter 7WJ; Jamie MacDonald 8IGD; Ben Harper 9JNB; Lauren Musgrave 10AJM; Imogen Hodgson 11VEC; Ailsa Hibbit 8HMM; Tenshin Dudler 9IFL; Elsa Baldwin 10AHF; Isabelle Atkinson 11AC

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. Cloughton Deputy Headteacher: Curriculum Overviews

Please find your half termly link to the Curriculum Overviews. For information relating to the Key Stage 3 or 4 curriculum and subject specific information, please follow this [link](#). For all Post 16 Curriculum Overviews, please follow this [link](#) and for further information about each subject, please follow the subject information [link](#).



On behalf of Mr Gutch: Deputy Headteacher Leadership & Enrichment Fayre 2024 – Wednesday 11th September 8.30-10.50am

Each year leadership and extra-curricular opportunities are advertised at the Leadership & Enrichment Fayre which takes place in the Sports Hall at the start of the new term. This year, we brought the event forward and planned the event to ensure that ALL students in years 7-13 were able to see the opportunities on offer. There are over 30 different leadership opportunities and around 80 different extra-curricular clubs. This year, we also invited representatives (many



of whom are ex IGS students) from local voluntary and community organisations to showcase what they do and to highlight the link between extra-curricular and leadership activities in school and the world outside IGS. This year the organisations represented include: Ilkley Rugby Club; Soroptimist International; Ilkley Pride & Diversity Group; Ilkley Cycle Races; Ilkley Community Network; Friends of Ilkley Riverside Parks; Christchurch Youth Workers; Burley Methodist Church Youth Worker; Ilkley Town AFC; Friends of Ashlands PTA; Ilkley Manor House Trust; Ilkley Rotary; Bradford Youth Service; Ilkley Clean Rivers and Ilkley Town Council.

Following the event, students in all year groups are able to sign up to leadership roles, extra-curricular clubs and for the first time we will also be sharing details of a range of local volunteering opportunities outside school with parents/carers.

To find out more about the vision for Personal Development go to: <https://www.ilkleygrammarschool.com/our-school/personal-development/>



Introducing *The Moral Maze in Tutor Time (Y9-13)*

Over the coming weeks students in years 9-13 will start to develop debating skills in tutor time each week. This is part of a drive to develop the skill of seeing both sides of an argument and helping students to 'disagree agreeably'. Initially following a 'think-pair-share' format, students will be provided with a brief introduction to each debate and will then be given one side of the argument (not necessarily the side they support) to research and prepare in more detail. Students will then conduct a mini-debate, initially in pairs, then in small groups and, as confidence grows in front of larger audiences. In a world in which social media algorithms simply feed us more and more of what we already believe, the Moral Maze is aimed at helping students develop the ability to see other points of view, play devil's advocate and to realise that different perspectives are not a threat, they are part of life.

Among the 40 debates selected for 2024-25 are:

1. Should children be allowed on Social Media?
2. Should school uniforms be banned?
3. Do video games have a positive effect on society?
4. This House would introduce restrictions on overseas players in football.
5. This House believes reality TV does more harm than good.
6. Should we resurrect extinct species?
7. Should we get rid of bottled water?
8. This House would allow parents to monitor their children's online and mobile communications.
9. Are Esports a sport?
10. Should private schools be banned?



Mr J. A. Gutch

Post-16 & Personal Development

Year 7 Red Ties visit Nell Bank – photos below!

It has been wonderful seeing our new year 7 cohort finding their feet, navigating around the school and getting to grips with the first couple of weeks of secondary school.

The new 'Red Ties' have enjoyed getting to know their new peers and form tutors with the annual trip to Nell Bank. The centre staff were full of high praise and the students are already great ambassadors for IGS.

I look forward to getting to know them better in the coming months.

Mr Carr: Assistant Headteacher: KS3



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On Tuesday 3rd September 2024 we welcomed our new year 7 'Red Ties' to IGS!



Music News!
Emma Chapman 13 LCM
After two auditions and an interview, Emma was successful in gaining a place on the Young Performers Studio programme. This is run by **Opera North**. Only 5 classical singers were selected, so this is an incredible achievement.
Well done, Emma!



Sport Update

Watch this space for IGS sporting updates as the season progresses throughout the year – we wish all our teams the best of luck!

Extra Curricular activities

The PE department is pleased to report that participation numbers for our extracurricular activities have been exceptional. We are thrilled with the enthusiastic turnout across all teams as they commence their practices. This strong start is a testament to the commitment and dedication of both our students and coaches.

We hope to see this high level of engagement continue throughout the academic year. To sustain this momentum, we encourage everyone to remain actively involved and continue to support one another. We are confident that with ongoing enthusiasm and effort, we will maintain these impressive participation levels week after week.

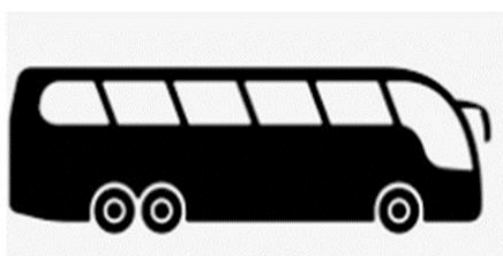
Thank you for your continued dedication and commitment to our extracurricular programs

Hockey

Huge congratulations **Noah Taylor-Smith I SRZ** and **Joe Sugden I SB** who were selected for the 24/25 cohort for the England Hockey Talent Academy (<https://www.englishockey.co.uk/play/talent-system/talent-academy>) and to **Frances Parsons (9JL)** who was selected for the Northwest of England Hockey Team which is a regional selection side.

A Talent Academy is a licensed club that is part of a national network of delivering provision to the highest potential boys and girls from U15-U18. It provides an educational programme to help prepare athletes for the demands of junior international hockey.

Joe and Noah will be attending every Wednesday afternoon. Good luck to them both and what a fantastic achievement!



Extra-Curricular transport - voluntary contribution

We are proud to offer a range of extra-curricular activities for our students here at IGS. Following on from our successful Enrichment Fayre earlier this week, these will start to commence over the coming days.

Some of these activities take place at our school field at Ben Rhydding. Previously, transport to and from these activities has been provided to students and we have done our best to shield participants from passing this cost on. Unfortunately, costs of this have continued to rise and ultimately is making this position unsustainable. For students who are participating in these activities Parents/Carers are able to make a voluntary donation via Parent Pay to support covering transport cost to and from the school field for extracurricular activities. If you wish to make a contribution, please visit ParentPay.

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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On behalf of Mr Calvert, Assistant Headteacher: Attendance Update

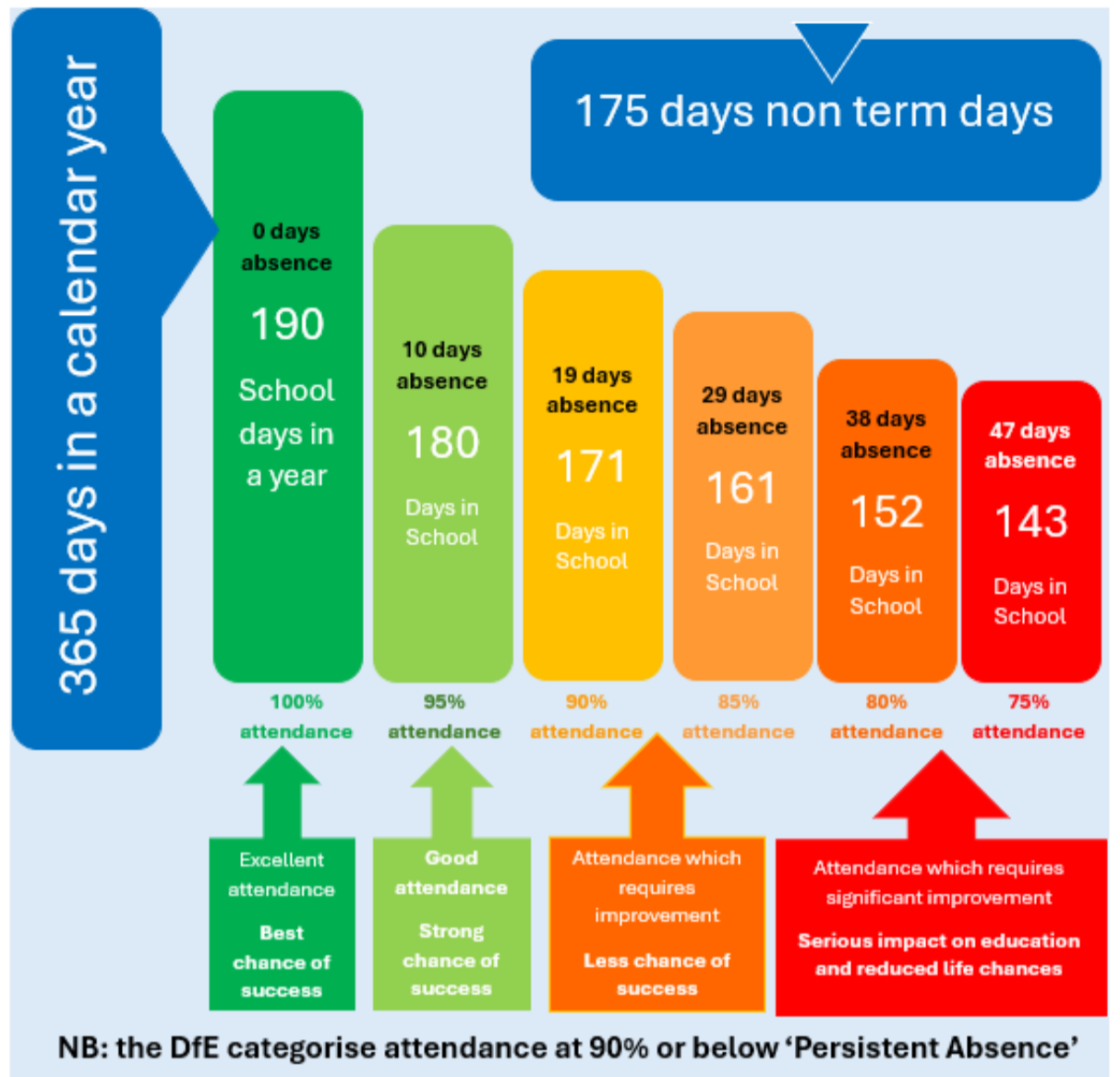
The correlation between good attendance at school and achievement, especially at GCSE and A-level, is well documented, alongside the positive benefits to students' social skills and wider development. Whilst attendance at IGS is above the national average, the national average is lower than it was before the pandemic and, as a result, too many young people are missing out on their education. Therefore, the new Government have put the improvement of school attendance high on their agenda with the expectation that every student attends school every day where it is possible to do so and that schools work in partnership to remove barriers to attendance and put the right support in place.



At IGS, we set very high expectations of student attendance. We work hard with students to help them feel happy and safe whilst at school and breakdown barriers preventing young people getting into school. To help facilitate good attendance, the pastoral teams are readily available to discuss and understand any issues your

child may have getting into school. In addition, we have a

new member of staff, **Miss Sturgess (see photo), who is a Families and Outreach Specialist** who will work closely with students and their families where there are significant difficulties with attendance at school. Please do contact us and we will do everything we can to help. There are a number of adjustments we can make, to support a young person to access school more often.



Edulink

Please use the new Edulink app system to inform us of an absence each day and use the app to explain the reason for the absence.

Penalty Notices: Attendance

Please note, within the new Government guidance there are statutory expectations that the school must follow, and these are outlined below as well as on the Department for Education website [HERE](#):

Should you wish to request a leave of absence for your child then please use the form [here](#) but please read the guidelines on this webpage carefully **as any holidays in term time will now result in the school contacting Bradford MDC to issue a fixed penalty notice of £80** (which rises to £160 if not paid within 21 days). This fixed penalty notice is issued per child and per parent.

If a child is off for unauthorised reasons for more than 10 sessions (5 days) in a rolling ten-week period then the school must consider referring the parent of the child to Bradford MDC for a fine to be issued. At IGS we want to support parents to get children into school and see this as a last resort when we have exhausted all our offers of support and any reasonable adjustments.

Schools must also inform Bradford MDC if it is believed that a child will be off ill for more than 15 days (consecutively or cumulatively) and this is to ensure the school, the LA and the parents work together to support the young person and where possible continue their education.

***If you have any queries of questions regarding the above information, please contact Mr Calvert, Assistant Headteacher.**

Careers - can you help!

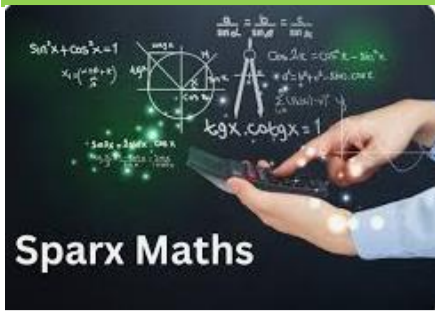
The careers team is continually looking to improve the careers provision at IGS, part of which is our annual careers fayre: 'Future Fest'; to be held this year on Tuesday 3rd December 2024.

It is a full day event, open to all year groups, and aimed to inspire and inform our students.

We are looking for local business representatives, particularly in the finance, construction and trades, and health and beauty sectors, although help from any area would be greatly appreciated. The format is informal, with no public speaking required, and where each business is allocated a table which students can approach to ask questions. *If there are any parents or contacts of parents that would be interested in attending as a business representative, please contact: anna.crewe@igs.mlt.co.uk*



Outstanding Achievement in Maths



The 2023-24 academic year was another one to celebrate for mathematics students at Ilkley Grammar School, with our year 11 and year 13 students achieving a fantastic set of results in their

GCSEs and A Levels respectively. Outside of the main exam year groups, we have also been very impressed with the hard work and the dedication to both improving and succeeding that has been showcased by every single year group.



A big factor in the mathematics success has been Sparx Maths. We have been very proud of how well the vast majority of students have embraced this platform, not only as a homework system but as a key resource in independent learning and revision. At the end of last year, students at IGS had answered 1,165,673 questions correctly. This equates to 26,033 hours of personalised maths practice completed by IGS students!

At an individual level, we can now announce our Sparx Maths 'Star Pupils' for 2023-24. These are the students in each year group who earned the most XP points in the last twelve months. A massive well done to Ailsa Hibbitt (Y7 - now 8HMM), Tenshin Dudler (Y8 - now 9IFL), Elsa Baldwin (Y9 - now 10AHF), Isabelle Atkinson (Y10 - now 11AC) and Natasha Wilson (Y11 - now 12JM)!

Finally, a massive thank you to every parent/carer for their support and encouragement of the students with their weekly 'compulsory' Sparx homework tasks. Across the last academic year, 44,711 emails were sent to parent/carers to provide regular updates on progress, and we want to take this opportunity to thank you all in advance for the continued support of Sparx Maths throughout the 2024-25 academic year.

Top Five Students By Year (KS3)

Year 7 (23/24)	
Student	Total XP
Ailsa Hibbitt	31,880
Darcy Brabiner	29,898
Charlotte Conybeare	29,857
Olivia Rix	29,148
Alexander Hickabottom	27,172

Year 8 (23/24)	
Student	Total XP
Tenshin Dudler	66,680
Tom Moffatt	47,386
Jasmine Bearpark	46,887
Robert Carter	44,257
Alice Gardner	42,640

Year 9 (23/24)	
Student	Total XP
Elsa Baldwin	40,147
Helena Parr	38,766
Ruby Bardon-Blick	30,510
Elsa Isherwood	26,729
Patrick Ke	26,664

Top Five Students By Year (KS4)

Year 10 (23/24)	
Student	Total XP
Isabelle Atkinson	66,275
Grace Darlington	37,020
William Campbell	28,020
Jake Norris	24,292
Jessica Lee	23,405

Year 11 (23/24)	
Student	Total XP
Natasha Wilson	29,883
George Docherty	22,460
Alex McKay	20,240
Rachel Smyth	19,576
Harriet Williams	18,915

Best Tutor Group in Each Year

Tutor Group (23/24)	Average XP
7FPW	15,255
8IFL	16,068
9ERE	14,190
10AMK	12,432
11JJS	7,691

Year Group Rankings

Tutor Group (23/24)	Average XP
Year 8	13,516
Year 7	13,241
Year 9	10,950
Year 10	10,580
Year 11	5,914





ILKLEY CAR FREE FESTIVAL



The Grove, Ilkley
Sunday 22nd September
11am - 4pm



entertainment • Pedal-on-the-Grove (bring bikes!)
street play • food & drink • community stalls
green energy providers and advisors: (Clever Energy, Leeds Solar,
Niche Architects, Wrapt Homes, Gecko Renewables, P4 Solar)
public/shared transport providers • electric bikes to try out
bikes for disabled users • bike repairs 11.00-15.30 (bring your bike!)
Ask a scientist • Eco information and advice

Cleaning up our Rivers, Lakes & Seas – The Answers Christchurch 12.30 - 16.30

Speakers include national campaign groups
(River Action, Wild Fish, Surfers Against Sewage) the leading academics
on river pollution (microplastics, bacteria and chemicals)
and campaigners from across the country

Register here:
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/cleaning-up-our-rivers-lakes-seas-the-answerstickets-913536882407>

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Parent/Carer Support Group

About Us:

The Parent Support Group is an online support group, facilitated by NHS mental health practitioners. The group is a safe space for parents to get together, share their experiences and build positive relationships. A different subject is discussed each month and parents will receive useful information and strategies around the chosen monthly topic. For an invite, please email: mhstparentsupport@bdct.onmicrosoft.com

Next Parents Support Group details: Tuesday 17th September 2024

Topic: "Supporting your child: Anxiety".


BRADFORD AND CRAVEN
trailblazer **NHS**

Parent/Carer Support Group


Supporting Emotional and Mental Health



Tuesday
17th September



10:30am or
7:30pm



Held on Zoom
Please email the
address below

THIS MONTHS TOPIC: SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD: ANXIETY



In this months Parent Support Group, we will be covering anxiety, specifically understand 'worry' and strategies that can be used to support your child or young person if you have noticed how frequent worrying has impacted them.



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